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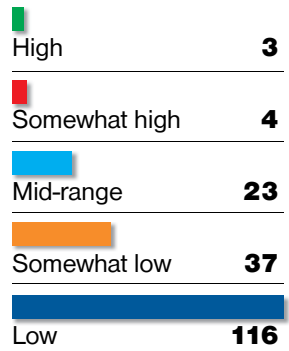
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Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Strong Force

A strong force, perhaps as powerful in Congress as President Barack Obama, is keeping the drive for health care going even as lawmakers seem hopelessly at odds.

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AFTER FITIAL VETO ON CEC, AETNA FUNDING BILL

Yumul: House override possible

More active hiring of CHC emergency doctors pushed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

House Health, Education and Welfare Committee on chairman Rep. Ralph Torres said CNMI health officials now are expected to be more active in hiring doctors, particularly at the Commonwealth Health



Torres

Center's emergency section.

In an interview Friday, Torres said one of the primary concerns raised during the July 17 hearing by his committee with Public Health officials was the continued lack of doctors at CHC.

He said Public Health Secretary John M. Tagabuel instructed the Pub-

See **MORE** on Page 4

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul said there is a possibility that the Legislature will override Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto on a bill that proposes to appropriate a total of \$295,000 to the Commonwealth Election Commission and government health insurance claims.



Yumul

See **YUMUL** on Page 4

Performance survey of CHC staff underway

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Rep. Ralph Torres, in coordination with the Department of Public Health, will conduct a performance evaluation survey of administration and staff at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Torres, who chairs the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that his intern, Frannie Demapan, prepared the survey.

See **PERFORMANCE** on Page 4

CPA airport bond ratio at negative .77

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's airport division recorded a negative .77 ratio last fiscal

year, according to Deloitte Touche.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho indicated in his report to the board last Thursday that besides the negative performance on the

See **CPA** on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

CPA seeks comments for independent contract proposal.

PAGE 2

SUMMER BASH

Palm Resort Saipan hosted another successful Summer Bash promotion last Saturday. Photo above shows participants tossing water-filled balloons to their partners during a game.

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Local

CPA board seeks comments for independent contract proposal

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority wants comments of independent agencies and autonomous departments before it decides on the proposed independent contracts for key positions in the agency.

Chairman Jose Lifofoi told this to *Saipan Tribune* during the CPA board's special meeting on Thursday, admitting that they are awaiting the opinion of these departments to the independent contract proposal of the CPA management.

However, Lifofoi expressed his personal support to the proposal, saying the agency would realize substantial savings on personnel cost besides assurance that qualified individuals will perform the important tasks.

"Personally, I support the proposal because CPA can realize some savings on the idea. But, the board needs to hear first the comments of other autonomous

agencies to come up with a better approach," Lifofoi said.

CPA stands to lose both its financial comptroller and deputy comptroller next week; if the deputy would not agree to the request of the board and management to stay until Dec. 31.

Due to the urgency of the matter, the board decided to name Frances Mafnas, the deputy comptroller, to act as acting comptroller for four months just to satisfy the bond indenture requirement to have a comptroller on board.

Lifofoi told *Saipan Tribune* that he acknowledged the concern of the management on the "unattractive" salary offer to key management positions like executive director, comptroller, engineer, and legal counsel.

The proposal to revise the employment contracts of some top management positions to become independent contractors of the CPA was presented to the board of directors last May with the objective of saving money for the agency.

At present, CPA has the responsibility of paying each individual's taxes, insurance, retirement contribution, and annual leaves on top of their annual salary.

Saipan Tribune learned that for the executive director position, which is being served by Efrain Camacho, the agency is spending up to \$110,000 yearly including his salary, while an estimated \$90,000 is being paid to comptroller annually. CPA pays Camacho \$70,000 annually.

For deputy comptroller, which is being served by Frances Mafnas, CPA approved a \$50,000 annual pay excluding other obligations and benefits.

The same goes for the agency's attorney, Joe Bermudes, who was approved a regular pay of \$65,000 on top of CPA paying for his insurance, tax, and leave benefits.

In an early interview with Camacho, he disclosed that once approved, CPA can generate over \$100,000 savings in an an-

See CPA on Next Page



CPA BOARD

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, right, checks a petition form with one of the Covenant Party officials while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from left, looks on during their filing of candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission Thursday.

MONETH H. DEPOSA

Immigration vows strict enforcement of foreign student permits

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Under the new regulation governing foreign students in the Commonwealth, the Division of Immigration is left with the important function of issuing the student permit and visa for alien enrollees.

Immigration director Melvin Grey emphasized this to *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last week, assuring that his office remains strict in issuing the permits to only qualified applicants.

Though the Department of Commerce now handles the certification and approval of schools that cater to foreign students, Grey said both agencies collaborate on the processing and evaluation of all documentations.

Grey has no qualms on the transfer of the specific function to Commerce, believing that the

new regulation will better serve the Commonwealth.

"Education is a business for these private schools and it is proper for Commerce to handle and monitor their compliance. Though we used to do it, it's for the best interest of all parties," he said.

Grey explained that prior to issuance of student permit, Commerce makes the recommendation whether to approve or disapprove the application.

To make the new process work, the director said Immigration is not accepting incomplete requirements and documents to prevent the waste of time and resources.

He is convinced that schools and students are now better complying with the regulation with the assistance of Commerce and Immigration.

Processing, under the new

system, he said takes a week or two.

Grey admitted the existence of "illegal sponsorship" involving foreign students.

However, he described this as an "unorganized scam" that has been addressed.

"We're not allowing it. As soon as we found out that a foreign student is out of status, we made the decision. Student permits are issued only for the purpose of education," he said.

The director said private schools have the responsibility to report if foreign students are out of status for Immigration to curb their illegal stay and improper sponsorship.

The division approves student permits based on the student's application.

"We approve one year or two years...depending on their applications," he added.



TEENS IN MOTION

The CNMI Youth Congress is inviting all YOUTH between the ages of 14 - 20 to its 7th Annual Youth Summit on July 31, 2009 at the Multi Purpose Center.

AGENDA:

Registration: 7:30 - 8:00 am

Morning Session: 8:00 - 12:00pm

Topics: Substance Abuse
Teen Pregnancy, HIV/STDS/AIDS
Healthy Eating Habits
CHALLENGE MASTERS

Morning Session is limited to the FIRST 150 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS.

Afternoon Session: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Gubernatorial Candidates Forum

ARTICLE XII Presentation

Youth Congress Presentation

Afternoon Session is OPEN to ALL YOUTH

Registration is ongoing at the Office of the CNMI Youth Congress located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (Legislature) in Capitol Hill. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 664-8845 or email to youthcongress@cnmileg.gov.mp.

Join US Tackle Youth Issues and work towards RESOLVING the Issues TOGETHER as ONE YOUTH, ONE HEART, and ONE COMMUNITY.

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Retirement Fund sets SOP for delinquent housing borrowers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A standardize operating procedure for delinquent borrowers would soon be enforced by the NMI Retirement Fund.

This after the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted proposed amendments to the rules and regulations governing its

member home loan program.

The proposed rules, according to the Fund, will stabilize its loan collection procedures and make the process as objective as possible by incorporating language into MHL program regulations by outlining the steps to be taken when a loan becomes delinquent.

The following are the steps

to be taken to solve delinquent loan and collection efforts for the program:

■ Affected borrowers who are more than 30 days past due their deadline will continue to receive delinquency notice and would continue to be charged late fees as long as there are past due amounts;

■ For those more than 60 days

late of their payments, a notice will be sent informing that they have 30 days to improve their account or the Fund may take legal action; and

■ For those over 90 days delinquent, their accounts will be referred to foreclosure attorney for processing if no improvements are made within 30 days.

The Fund board also informed customers who are over 120 days delinquent, that a final delinquency notice will be served indicating that the account will be forwarded to a foreclosure attorney immediately without further notice.

However, the trustees ap-

proved an allowance workout plan for borrowers who are 120 days or more delayed, but these are one time options only and any deviations or defaults on the agreed upon option will result in the automatic transfer of the account to foreclosure attorney.

These include option to fully pay at maturity where borrowers agree to make payments adequate in amount to payoff the loan and penalty fees; balloon payment which they are allowed to pay down one-fourth of the original loan amount with balloon payment at the original maturity date including penalty.

The board also approved a

refinance option that provides a new 360-month term as well as deed in lieu of foreclosure, or borrowers are provided that loan-to-value ratio is at most 75 percent of the current appraised value.

A "buy-back" option was also granted in foreclosure regulation, which is subject for board's approval.

During last week's meeting, Fund board chairman Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero said that since the proposed regulation provides this option to acquire back the foreclosure properties, he assured that "best price will prevail" on all transactions.

Printing of 2010 Census questionnaires under way

New 10-question survey among shortest since first Census in 1790

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun printing 2010 Census questionnaires as the agency continues preparations for next year's count of the U.S. population.

The new questionnaire, which every residential address will receive, is designed to be one of the shortest since the first census in 1790, asking just 10 questions and taking about 10 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to count everyone living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place," said Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves. "Making that happen begins with the 2010 Census questionnaire, a powerful tool that provides critical data that will guide representation in Congress and the distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds to state, local and tribal governments every year."

Beginning in mid-March 2010, more than 120 million questionnaires will be delivered to U.S. residential addresses. To meet the goal, the Census Bureau will print more than 1.5

million documents every day.

For the first time, more than 13 million questionnaires will be bilingual (English-Spanish). The move is based on tests showing that targeting the bilingual questionnaires toward areas with high concentrations of Spanish-only speakers will improve response rates.

Questionnaires are also available on request in Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. Language guides, which provide instructions on how to complete the questionnaire, are available in nearly 60 languages.

"The Census Bureau has gone to great lengths to make the printing process as efficient and eco-friendly as possible," Groves said. "The printing of 2010 Census questionnaires uses 30 percent less ink than 10 years ago and will be printed on 30 percent recycled paper."

Another critical factor in the success of the census is the quality of the address list used for delivering the questionnaires next March. This spring, Census Bureau workers walked every street in the nation to match actual residential addresses on the ground with those provided in lists from the U.S. Postal Ser-

vice and local governments.

The 140,000 workers who verified addresses operated out of 151 local census offices in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. In the fall, an additional 344 local census offices will open.

The Census Bureau will hire approximately 1.4 million people to conduct the 2010 Census, including following up with households that do not return their questionnaire.

"The 2010 Census is easy, important and safe," Groves said. "The Census Bureau is ready to undertake this massive domestic operation and looks forward to everyone's participation in the national count."

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to distribute congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest and simplest to complete in history. Strict laws protect the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide. (PR)

CPA

From Page 2

nual basis without jeopardizing the operation and function of the airports and seaports.

Camacho said if his independent contract is approved, he can serve as the agency's executive director with the same vision and mission and could also serve as its staff engineer.

Camacho's contract is set to expire in November this year.

Saipan Tribune learned that a staff engineer position is being paid \$65,000 while the executive director post gets \$70,000. This is on top of the taxes, insurances, retirement fund contribution, etc., being paid by the employer for each individual in the position which could reach over \$200,000 every year.

CPA will also be spared from paying the independent contractors on holidays and could terminate tasks anytime it wants to.

Camacho said that the proposed independent contracts for each position recommends a lower figure.

The Office of Public Auditor earlier cleared that the executive director and the comptroller positions are exempted from the salary cap law of the CNMI.

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Smart Choice

Joaquin H. Borja eyes state county version if elected senator

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Tinian Labor Director Joaquin H. Borja said if elected Tinian senator he will create a state county version to improve Tinian's economy.

Running along with reelectionist Tinian Senator Felix Mendiola under the Covenant Party, Borja told *Saipan Tribune* that he is not saying that Tinian's current leaders are not doing their job, but that he believes he can contribute a lot if he wins a Senate seat.

"On top of my vision of the many lists is the economy of Tinian and that is the state county version," said Borja, who is a former member of Tinian Representative under the 8th Legislature.

He said it is very important for Tinian to get its autonomy through a state county version.

"It is very important, very broad. State county version is for local level to be addressed by the mayor and the municipal council and the so called delegation to focus on national level," Borja said.

He said he wants to let the governor

more time focusing on more Commonwealth level and not specific to local level.

He said the municipal status now is a chartered municipality.

Borja said once the state county is set up, he will then look into the health care program.

"I want the municipal government to have its own health care under the

jurisdiction of municipal council and the mayor and the delegation," he said.

"It is very vital for the people of the Commonwealth and specific to Tinian to get the best health care program to establish among its people," he said.

Incumbent Tinian Senator Judge Hofschneider is also running for reelection under the Republican Party.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attention all MHS Class of 1979

The second official 1979 Marianas High School class reunion meeting will be held on July 31 at Irene Takai Camacho's Dandan house at 6pm.

Confirmation of the 30th year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips and chips and BYOB. Please call

Camacho at 288-2596 or Joe Kaipat at 664-8509 between 8am to 3pm for details. (PR)

Navy to conduct live-fire exercises on FDM

SANTA RITA, GUAM—The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla

from 8am to 12:59am on July 27-30.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a ten nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the time

and date indicated.

The Farallon de Medinilla Target Range is the Pacific Fleet's only U.S.-controlled range available for live-fire training for forward deployed naval forces. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense, because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2115. (PR)

Important info about NMC Fall semester

Important information about the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2009 Semester has been posted to the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu. The Fall 2009 Class Schedule, placement test dates, registration dates, and other information can be accessed now. Log on to NMC's website or call Manny Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1528 for more details. (PR)

CPA

From Page 1

airport bond ratio, the accounting firm also uncovered that seaport division registered a ratio of 1.000 last year.

"As anticipated, the report shows that the required bond ratios were not met... For the seaport division the ratio was 1.000, while the airport division showed a negative .77. In both cases the major changes recommended by the executive director and approved by the board had not taken place until the end of fiscal year of 2008," Camacho's report stated.

It can be recalled that to address the concerns in both bond indenture agreements for the two divisions, CPA increased the port fees by 90 percent and eliminated the airport incentive program.

It was also then that CPA recommended that a third party expert be hired to review the agency's operations and make recommendations as to how best to achieve the required bond ratios. It then hired Bruce McMillan to do the specific tasks.

The same audit report indicated that

the combined seaport and airport financial statements show an operating loss of \$9.1 million—an increase over 2007's loss of \$8.9 million.

Between the divisions, airport incurred a loss of \$9.075 million, while seaport posted \$54,000.

Overall, revenues declined from the prior year by \$1.6 million while operating costs declined by \$1.4 million.

Camacho assured the board last Thursday that when the audit report is finalized, management will present a more detailed analysis by divisions.

Continued watch list

Saipan Tribune learned that the auditors also found CPA with weak internal control that would result to its continued status on the watch list of federal granting agencies.

"The auditors, opinion for the year ended, was that a material weakness existed in CPA's internal control. This opinion was a down grading from the prior year which gave an unqualified opinion... As a result of this opinion, it can be anticipated that the federal agencies will continue to place CPA on the grantee 'watch list,'" CPA management said.

In its compliance report, auditors also identified a total of \$428,526 of questioned costs relating to federal grants, bulk of which related to either sole source or emergency procurement.

CPA concurs that some procedures were not maintained, but will that the recorded effect was actually material.

Camacho reported to the board that management is optimistic of refunding the questioned amounts.

In addressing all the concerns in the audit report, the management of the port authority emphasized the hiring and retaining of qualified individuals for the job.

"The ongoing improvement will only continue if management remains stable and the required human assets in accounting are recruited, trained, and retained," Camacho's report added.

Last Thursday, it was disclosed that two financial officials of the agency quit their posts and the board instructed management to ask the deputy comptroller to stay until Dec. 31 to prevent negative impact on its bond indenture agreements.

MORE

From Page 1

lic Health human resources department to do whatever it takes to recruit doctors, even part-time, at CHC's emergency section.

Torres said Public Health should also look at possibly hiring local doctors to fill in the shift at the emergency section.

On the dialysis issue, Torres said Tagabuel informed him that the New Dialysis Center will open on Aug. 15, 2009.

The lawmaker said a few days after the hearing he and their intern, Frannie Demapan, went to Public Health to see the actual renovation of the New Dialysis Center.

"So we are actually looking forward in getting this new dialysis up to date for the

grand opening on the 15th," he said.

Torres said the other concern brought up during the hearing was the internal and external communications issue.

"One of the biggest issue is when patients are brought to the hospital, they wait for two to three hours and then only to be informed there is no doctor or at that point they are being directed to see private clinics," he said.

Torres said they were able to address

that problem as public health officials agreed that there is no doctor available or if there is backlog, then the patients should be informed right away and not make them wait for a couple of hours or so.

Torres, however, encouraged people having only minor illness such as headache, stomachache, or minor flu to proceed to private clinics as CHC is overwhelmed with patients.

On the salary of doctors issue, he said they asked Tagabuel to provide the committee with a report about the difference in salary.

"For example, we are offering \$180,000 and how much is it that is offered in the States? So if there is \$230,000 then that's a difference of \$50,000 and that's for a doctor. And how many doctors do we need? If we need more 10 more so that's an increase of \$500,000," Torres said.

YUMUL

From Page 1

"We are willing to sit down with the governor if he wants. Otherwise, we are going to consider the possibility of entertaining an override. Because the purpose of the appropriation is for critical need which is to pay for runoff claims. We don't want to put Aetna insurance into jeopardy," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

In a separate interview, Senate President Pete Reyes said he believes personally that the Legislature can override, but that the situation can be amicably settled.

Introduced by Rep. Yumul, House Bill 16-262 appropriates \$172,369 to the Commonwealth Election Commission

for the November 2009 general election and runoff election, if necessary.

The bill also appropriates \$122,630 to Aetna Global Benefits, an insurance carrier that administers the CNMI government's health insurance program. The payment is for the runoff obligations incurred by members of the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

In disapproving the bill, Fitial said the funding from the Marianas Public Land Trust is simply not available.

"And even more importantly, the constitutional obstacle of this bill leaves me no choice but to disapprove it in its current form," said Fitial in his letter to the Legislature.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Friday, Yumul said the definition of earmark in the dictionary is to set aside

or make available.

"So what we did was at the time when 16-7 was signed into law it was July 2008. We were looking into fiscal year 2009. We're in the middle or toward the end of fiscal year 2008. So this is funding source for 2009 and we called it an earmark for very specific reason," Yumul said.

He said for FY2008 they were still under continuing budget resolution so they cannot appropriate from sources that were identified in the last known budget.

"We called it an earmark. We identified it as money to be set aside from Fiscal Year 2009. Subsequently we passed 16-32 into law this year. Granted it was late, nevertheless it became law," he said.

The lawmaker said the governor in his message stated that \$1.9 million

was a distributable income in FY2009 and was transferred in its entirety.

"He had no right to do that because that's unconstitutional. He only had the constitutional right or authority to transfer \$1.7 under Public Law 16-32," Yumul pointed out.

He said they are still going to discuss the issue further with the members of the House and Senate and see where the Legislature stands.

In an interview, Senator Reyes said the issue is a little bit complicated because they need to look back at other authority.

"On Public Law 16-7 we earmarked \$3.4 million just to \$1.7 million from MPLT to pay for Aggreko. But that account is an earmarking account," Reyes said.

Reyes agreed with Fitial that the

Legislature cannot appropriate funding beyond what is identified in the concurrent resolution.

He, however, stated that, for him, by virtue of the governor pointing out that there is a distributable income of \$1,995,000 in FY2009 shows that the chief executive had acknowledged the letter to the Senate by the MPLT chairman identifying that there is additional \$295,000 available that can be appropriated.

"So I think we're both wrong. I think that the Legislature should not appropriate money that is not identified by the administration. And at the same time the administration cannot spend money that exceed the identification that they submitted to the Legislature. We need to differentiate between earmarking and appropriation," Reyes said.

Mental health not getting enough attention in the Pacific

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The low priority given to mental health by governments in the Pacific means that specialized mental health care is sorely inadequate in the region, says a mental health adviser.

Margaret Eastgate, Regional Youth and Mental Health Project Coordinator at the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International, made this statement when she addressed youth delegates during a session on promoting healthy lifestyles at the 2nd Pacific Youth Festival held in Suva, Fiji, from July 11 to 18, 2009).

The scarcity of formal statistics on the number of people suffering from mental illness around the region was an example of the lack of commitment to mental health by governments, she said.

"Even where mental health care services do exist, access is limited due to geographical location and the need for transport to get to these centers," Eastgate said.

She said mental health could not be viewed in isolation of the social, economic and political climates of the region. The causes of mental disorders could also be attributed to

poverty levels, further exacerbated by unemployment, substance abuse and suicide as experienced by young people in the Pacific.

Youth delegates attending the session were particularly touched by one speaker, Gary Rounds, president of Youth Champs for Mental Health in Fiji, who spoke about his own experience in facing mental illness and depression.

Rounds admitted that when he was diagnosed with severe depression, he was more scared of the stigma attached to the illness than of the condition itself.

"I thought about how people would approach me, socialise with me or judge me," he said.

He recalled how he became severely depressed when he was 19 after a bad breakup and his mother's death.

"I tried to brush it aside by drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana to excess," Rounds said. "I lost faith in myself and thought that alcohol and drugs would take away all my bad thoughts and self-pity."

He realized he needed help after attempting to commit suicide and voluntarily admitted himself to Fiji's St. Giles



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gary Rounds, right, speaking to a delegate at the Pacific Youth Festival.

Psychiatric Hospital for treatment.

"Through the support of my family, friends and workmates I recovered in three months," Rounds said.

He believes mental health has been given too little attention in the Pacific and hopes his story will bring about positive change in young people's lives, especially those experiencing mental illness.

A youth delegate from American Samoa, Taufauomato Tumulialifo, 25, said Round's presentation had inspired her to encourage young people to speak up about the issue.

"I'm glad to know that Mr. Rounds got help to recover from his condition because back home, mental health resources are limited—we have just one certified nurse and

psychiatrist," she said.

Tuvalu delegate, Maryanne Kafolau, 19, said she was touched by a poem Mr Rounds recited about the challenges he faced while ill. The poem urges young people to "keep on walking" against the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

"I feel empowered by Mr Rounds being able to speak about his experiences so openly because in Tuvalu we do not have a hospital for patients with mental illness and no workshops of this kind for people to speak openly about it," Kafolau said.

Vanuatu delegate, Morrison Daniel, 24, says it was good to hear the experiences of someone who had actually gone through mental illness and recovered from it.

"I will definitely be encouraging young people to talk about mental illness when I go back to Vanuatu as listening and sharing information with someone who has gone through the experience is different from speaking to a doctor," Daniel said.

"Mr. Rounds experience has given us guidance and direction on how to deal with this issue back home." (PR)

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LAST DATE TO FILE AUGUST 27, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-517596, 255 Kilograms of Potassium Permanganate (AG/2009/0820/5614), Saipan, MP, U.S. CNMI Corporation, 04/30/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction off various furniture and equipments from the Sunset Villa Hotel. A list of properties for auction may be obtained at CDA's Offices in Saipan and Rota.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
- The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
- The public auction will be held at **SUNSET VILLA HOTEL, SONTON, ROTA** on **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**;
- The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
- Terms of the sale are cash, credit card or certified check; and
- CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

Inspection of the properties is recommended and may be arranged with Ms. Nanette E. Atalig any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays except holidays.

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Ousted mayoralty candidate blasts Covenant leadership

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ousted mayoralty candidate Juan S. Demapan lashed out at the Covenant Party's standard-bearer, accusing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of running a dictatorship within the party.

Demapan, after failing to comply with the committee's requirements, was booted out

last week in favor of Marian Tudela who has been endorsed as the party's mayoralty candidate for Saipan.

In a statement last Thursday, the same day the Covenant slate filed its candidacy, Demapan criticized and even campaigned against the governor.

"The Covenant Party is a one man-rule ... and that is Gov. Benigno Fitial. Anyone that oppos-

es it or him will be terminated from work just like what others of our own people have experienced," Demapan said.

In fact, he added, no one within the party can challenge Fitial for a primary for the governor position without adverse consequences.

Covenant Party chairman Greg M. Camacho Friday came to the defense of the party and

its standard bearer.

Camacho said it's never the intention of the party to stir bad blood against anyone, especially to a former party member and supporter.

He added that he has no time to listen and respond to any statements made by Demapan against the party and the governor because there are so much more important things that needs immediate attention.

Camacho denied Demapan's accusation that the Covenant is a one man-rule.

"It's not true," he said tersely. In a statement, Demapan said that he believes that politics is

all about sincerity and trust, two things he cannot get from the Covenant Party and much less from the governor.

"As a candidate for mayor of Saipan, I cannot be with a party that does not care about the interest of Saipan first. No administration has adversely affected the foundation of our democratic form of government than this Fitial administration..." he added.

Demapan was the party's candidate in 2005 for the Washington Representative.

The ousted mayoralty contender even appealed to the people not to support Fitial this November election.

With the way he was treated

at the party, Demapan is convinced that the interest of the Covenant Party is mainly about reelecting Fitial and not about getting the other candidates elected for other positions.

"The party is asking support for all our candidates...and not for the governor alone. Everyone in the party is working for this election," Camacho said.

According to Demapan, he was never informed about the decision and was not even given any courtesy to be heard.

Camacho also denied this allegation, saying that the party sent a letter to Demapan informing about the party's decision.

"He was very much informed..." he added.

Teen center closure leads to drop in Karidat recipients

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Karidat Social Service witnessed a drop in recipients last year primarily due to the closure of the House of Manhoeben.

The group extended help to 4,096 individuals in 2007, which is 415 less than the 4,515 total it served in 2008.

Karidat said the discrepancy is due to the closure of the

House of Manhoeben, its teen center program.

Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero said the teen center was shut down due to lack of funding and because its coordinator had to attend to her husband's health problems.

Guerrero noted that the House of Manhoeben's beneficiaries was a mere 456 in 2008 compared to the 1,074 in 2007. The dramatic decrease can also

be attributed to the teen center being closed in the last three months of 2008.

The group's remaining programs are family service, victims of crime advocacy, hotline, Guma Esperansa, and guest worker assistance.

Family services, which includes emergency food and shelter (EFS for food only and EFS for rent) donates food and used clothing to fire victims. It also holds alcohol information class.

Like the House of Manhoeben, the center's recipients decreased to 1,656 in 2008 from 1,746 in 2007.

EFS also showed a decrease in dependents to 696 in 2008 from 784 in 2007, while EFS's numbers were also down to 152 from 246 the past two years.

Meanwhile, there was an increase in donated food to 363 in 2008 from 348 in 2007.

There was also a huge decline in the number of beneficiaries for the alcohol information class (DUI), which was only 49 in 2008, compared to 105 in 2007.

Used clothing beneficiaries increased to 385 in 2008 from 226 in 2007, while the number of fire victims who asked the center for assistance remained constant at 11.

Victims of crime advocacy increased to 228 in 2008 from 117 in 2007. These include temporary restraining order (49), crisis intervention (31), court moral support (78), review hearings (59), information and referral (7), and case management (4).

Hotline calls also increased to 1,404 in 2008 from 1,322 in 2007.

Admissions at the Guma Esperansa, for its part, declined to 175 (87 for adult and 88 for children) in 2008 from 256 in 2007. Those who sought help were victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and for witness protection.

Some of the individuals admitted stayed in the shelter for months and were provided the full scope of services available at Karidat.

The guest worker assistance program, which was reactivated after two years of being shelved, served a total of 177 persons in 2008.



'WE'RE A GO'

Brigham Young professor J. Ward Moody gives a thumbs-up sign as he preps the big screen that shows the reflected image of the solar eclipse that attracted an appreciative crowd at the Palms Resort last Wednesday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

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Tinian council removes legal attorney position

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Budget constraints forced Tinian lawmakers and officials to give up the municipality's legal counsel position.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chairman Sen. Joseph Mendiola said the decision was made during the 12th Tinian Municipal Council.

It was during the June 24 session that the council adopted Tinian Local Ordinance 11-01, which restructured the legal counsel position to reflect the Tinian Mayor's Office's revised personnel budget.

Mendiola said the municipality is spending \$65,000 per annum for the services of a legal counsel.

With the recent decision, the same service could only be paid by the municipality on "as needed basis" policy.

"We're experiencing a severe drop in our revenues for the last several years and the municipal council, in consultation with the municipality and the delegation, decided to restructure some positions in the mayor's office because of limited budget," the

senator said.

Since 1998, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has been the only business firm that contributed to the island's revenue and resources.

Mendiola said with the anticipated decline in tourist arrivals from China as a result of the market's exclusion to the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, Tinian Dynasty's operation may suffer more.



Mendiola

The delegation chairman said it is their goal to keep all the jobs of their people, most of whom are employees of the Tinian municipality.

He disclosed that at present, the island's employees are working on reduced hours after the municipality and the delegation agreed to take that route instead of massive layoffs.

"They understand the situation...and it's better that way than to lay off people. We cannot afford to see our people without jobs. Families will suffer," he said, adding that the delegation is exploring all avenues to see the continuity of essential programs for the people such as the health and scholarship programs.

The municipality of Tinian has about 130 employees.

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Priniponen Atkilon Tanu Publiku

Notisia ginen i Depattamienton Tanu Publiku: Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku espesifikamente Tanu Numeru 076 D 15, poku mas o` menus 3,000 metru kuatdrao minidoñgña gi katan estatuan Matsue giya Garapan. I mapa yan todo infotmasion pot este na tanu gaige gi depattamienton tanu giya Dandan, segundu bibi-enda gi Joeten Dandan Building.

I para u inatkila este na lugat i Marianas Fitness, Ltd., un` kompania guine. I membron kuetpon este na kom-pania i sigiente siha: Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexfod C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

I offisiat siha i sigiente: Russell D. Quinn, presidente; Marian Aldan-Pierce, segundu presidente; Rexford C. Kosack, secretariu; yan Yoshio S. Gabaldon, tresurariu. I kontratan este na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Kosack yan Señora Aldan-Pierce.

I umatkikila este na tanu publiku libre umusa i lugat pot bisnis eksisiu taimanu i gaige pago na fasilidat gi Marianas Fitness, Ltd. I tetminon atkilon bente siñku años (25 years) yan appottunidat ma-ekstenden este na atkilon talu kinse años (15 years).

I atkilon tanu kada sakan guaha figura mapega halom guine na kontrata segun i balin i lugat ni monhayan esta marikonose gi hilu i mafananaan “appraisal” ripot (katkulon balin tanu) ginen un` kualifikao na kompania.

I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Garapan, Saipan.

Kopian este na proposito gaige gi todo offisinin tanu publiku entalu Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Libre kada su-dadanu rumikonose este na dokumientu. I kabesanten depattamintun tanu publiku siña in` tigie` yangin guaha sentimentun miyu pot i mapropopone. Este na anunsiu areglon Lai Publiku 15-2. I uttimu haanen muna` halom opiñion i Agosto dia 7, 2009 gi todo Offisinin Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Allégghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf`igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Allégghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoor, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwaári Lot No 076 D 15, eyoor eluuw sangaras llapal (3, 000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Liyo, Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Marianas Fitness, Ltd., CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge Russel D. Queen, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rex-ford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Chistopher I. Nelson, me Brett D. Nelson..

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Russell D. Quinn.. Arúschayúl assamwool (vice presi-dent) nge Marian Aldan-Pierce. Sekkeretorio nge Rexford C. Kosack. Treasurer nge Yoshio S. Gabaldon..

- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Rexford C. Kosack me Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel mwóghutufisch ngáre leliyal ammey (fitness gymnasium) fengál me wiisal,.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the prop-erty) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.

- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Tou-lap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arab-wal, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingi-ingil mereel amweyút mmwal August (Elúwel) 7, 2009 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any in-terested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 076 D 15, containing an area of approxi-mately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Russell D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

The President of the Corporation is Russell D. Quinn. The Vice President is Marian Aldan-Pierce. The Secretary is Rexford C. Kosack. The Treasurer is Yoshio S. Gabaldon.

- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Rexford C. Kosack and Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating an all-purpose fitness gymna-sium and other related support facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commer-cial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 7, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.



JULY 27, 1999

School bus is for public school only

Instead of charging bus fare, the Public School System should limit the school bus service to public school students, an officer of the CNMI PTA Council said yesterday. “May be this is not a good time to charge students for bus ride. It might be too much for some parents of public school students,” said Roman Benavente, the council’s legislative affairs officer. PSS is currently extending free transportation service to private school students, although the government’s education agency is alone in shouldering the maintenance costs for the buses.

Rota Resort gets 15-year lease extension

The Board of Public Lands has agreed to grant a 15-year lease extension to the Rota Resort and Country Club, ending months of dispute over conditions which the tourists’ golf haven has yet to meet as stipulated in the initial contract with the government. Legislators expressed relief over the agreement intended to help the financially-troubled resort. It was announced during a joint meeting yesterday of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Resources, Economic Development and Programs Committee. The deal is expected to be approved during a scheduled joint session by the House of Representatives and the Senate on Thursday.

JULY 27, 2000

50% of business establishments ceased operation

If you think everything about the Northern Marianas economy is starting to become brighter, think again. It will take the CNMI longer years to recover from deep economic slump or at least come close to the 1997 level since more than half of all the islands’ existing establishments in 1996 have stopped operations since the Asian financial upheaval fanned towards the Northern Marianas in early 1998. According to Commonwealth Development Authority Executive Director Marylou S. Ada, the number of businesses on the islands dropped by as much as 32 percent in 1997 to 3,800 from about 6,000 in 1996.

Prostitution, tourist harassment threaten tourism industry

Visitors in the CNMI have been subjected to various types of harassment by beach vendors who aggressively offer almost anything—from boat rides to prostitution. Such situation is a growing problem in the tourist industry as visitors have become very uncomfortable during their short stay in Saipan, according to Ron Sablan, president of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands. One of the HANMI members even videotaped beach vendors loitering on hotel property and beaches, pestering virtually every tourist venturing toward the beach. In a letter to Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry John Tenorio, Mr. Sablan asked the tourism agency’s help in solving the problem.

JULY 27, 2001

New schools hit snag

The planned unveiling of two new Saipan public schools in January 2002 may be moved to a later date due to factors impeding the start of the construction process. The Public School System Capital Improvement Projects Office reported yesterday that Kagman Junior High and Koblerville High Schools are not likely to meet the original completion deadline. But the construction of Kagman High School is noted to be two weeks ahead of schedule. The facility is expected to be completed by early November this year. As regards the junior high school project, PSS and the Department of Public Works are awaiting response from the Division of Fish and Wildlife on a new location and layout agreement. This, after environment officials determined that the current building site is home to endangered birds called the Nightingale Red Warbler.

Manglona resurrects PSS appropriations initiative

Last-ditch attempts by Senate proponents of House Legislative Initiative 12-001 successfully managed to stave off the measure’s sudden death by finally garnering the required seven votes during last Wednesday’s special session. Senate President Paul A. Manglona swung the votes in favor of the initiative, after reconsidering his initial negative vote on the bill. The bill, which aims to increase the Public School System’s mandatory funding by 10 percent, was as good as dead when the Senate first voted on the initiative, after it failed to garner the required three-fourths affirmative vote.

JULY 27, 2003

Election law amendment okayed

An emergency regulation that would give the Republican and Democratic parties a chance to catch up despite the expired deadline to register as “recognized political parties” in time for the November elections has been approved by both houses of the Legislature. House Bill 13-309, a proposed amendment to the Commonwealth Election Law or Public Law 12-18, was passed by the House of Representatives last week. The proposal gained Senate concurrence on Tuesday. The two traditional parties need official recognition as political parties in order to have a place on the election ballot, and have the names of their respective candidates identified accordingly.

DUI arrests drop in first six months of 2003

The shortage in traffic enforcers apparently translated to a dramatic decline in the number of arrests relating to Saipan motorists who are driving under the influence of alcohol during the first half of the current calendar year. A report released by the Department of Public Safety’s Traffic Division disclosed that DUI arrests dropped by 14 percent in the first six months of 2003 compared with the same period last year. The DPS report blamed the shrinking tally to lack of manpower, which means that there could be motorists who are plying Saipan roads while under the influence of alcohol.

Pacific

Fiji's military ruler says ousted PM still popular

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Fiji's military ruler says the prime minister he ousted in a coup three years ago would be returned to power if democratic elections were held tomorrow in the South Pacific island nation.

In a television interview to be screened by Australian public broadcaster SBS late Sunday, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, Fiji's self-appointed prime minister, reiterated that he would not bend to international pressure to hold elections before 2014.

He said he wanted to first create a new constitution that gave every Fijian an equal vote to replace the system scrapped by the military coup that guaranteed indigenous Fijian candidates a parliamentary majority.

Bainimarama said if an election were held tomorrow under the current electoral system, "he would win it," referring to deposed prime minister Laisenia Qarase.

"We're trying to change the mindset of the people from racial issues that developed in the last 10 years to what we want to take Fiji to—equal suffrage," Bainimarama said in an interview on "Dateline." The Associated Press watched an advance recording of the program.

Qarase is an indigenous Fijian who in December 2006 became the Pacific nation's fourth prime minister to be removed by a coup in 20 years.

Bainimarama, also an indigenous Fijian, argues that the previous constitution discriminated against Fiji's large ethnic Indian minority.



Bainimarama

Tonga bids for 2015 Pacific Games
Kingdom seeks to host \$50 million event

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Ma-tangi Tonga)—Tonga is bidding to host the Pacific Games in 2015 and has earmarked a proposed USD\$50 million budget to finance the construction of new sporting facilities and infrastructure over the next six years.

This was announced at a press conference on July 21 during a two day visit by the President of the Pacific Games Council Mr Vidhya Lakhan and Executive Director Andrew Minogue to review Tonga's bid, lodged by the Tonga Sports Association and National Olympic Committee (TASANOC).

President of the Pacific Games Council Mr Vidhya Lakhan (right) and Executive Director Andrew Minogue (left).

Mr Lakhan said the purpose of the visit was to meet with the committee to ensure that they fully understood the logistics of hosting a games of this magnitude, which in the past has drawn over 4,000 athletes from 22 Pacific Island countries to compete.

"We need to ensure that Tonga has the capacity to stage the largest singular event the South Pacific region holds every year." At the same time they agreed that so far their first impression was good in relation to the level of organisation shown by the committee.

While in Tonga, the President and Director were to meet the Prime Minister Hon Dr Feleti Sevele to discuss Tonga's bid. "It is important that Tonga gets the support of its Government," he said.

The visit also provided an opportunity for them to look around and inspect existing sporting facilities and infrastructure in Nuku'alofa.

Star-Kist laying off hundreds in American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—StarKist Co. has confirmed it is laying off about 350 workers from its tuna cannery in the U.S. territory of American Samoa over the next several months.

The layoffs include both salaried and hourly workers at StarKist Samoa, which has about 2,000 workers, StarKist spokeswoman Mary Sestric said via e-mail on Wednesday.

"Excess global manufacturing capacity, annual increases in the minimum wage and constantly shifting cost pressures combine to put the American Samoan tuna industry at significant and immediate risk and prevent it from remaining globally competitive," Sestric said.

Gov. Togiola Tulafono has said the federally mandated U.S. minimum wage increases are pushing the territory's other tuna cannery out of business.

Chicken of the Sea International plans to shut down its COS Samoa Packing plant at the end of September, laying off 2,172 workers.

The fish canning industry directly and indirectly accounts for nearly three-fifths of all economic activity in American Samoa, located about 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometers) south of Hawaii.

In May, the Pittsburgh-based StarKist company announced a new personnel policy that led to the elimination of about 390 positions at its American Samoa plant.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Division of Labor
Second Floor Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992



PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

The following Non-resident workers and Employers are hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Administrative Hearing Office, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio Saipan for a hearing to address the matter of the status of the employees and the employment practices of the employer. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service of this Notice of Hearing". For information, please contact Investigator Dean Tenorio at 236-0948 prior to the hearing schedule.

EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER	CASE NUMBER	HEARING DATE/TIME
1. Estrella J. Jumilla	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August, 20 2009 1:00 pm
2. Rafael N. Alvarado	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August, 20 2009 1:00 pm
3. Nora S. Tagbuyawan	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
4. Sarah G. Gascon	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
5. Liwayway O. Garcia	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
6. Delia E. Tancinco	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
7. Arceli R. Dela Cruz	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
8. Caixia Qian	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
EMPLOYER	COMPANY	CASE NUMBER	HEARING DATE/TIME
9. Mariano Pangelinan	Island Janitorial.	CAC No. 08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
10. Soledad C. Pangelinan	Island Janitorial.	CAC No. 08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm

Failure to appear at your scheduled hearing shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

The following Non-resident worker and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio Saipan. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service for the notice to appear for investigation". For information, please contact Investigator Dean Tenorio at 236-0948.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/ Time
1. Hua, Li Rong	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 8 AM
2. Lin Anshu	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @ 8:30 AM
3. Wang, Meng	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09- 243-07	8/11/09 @ 9:00 AM
4. Yi, Guanghua	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @ 9:30 AM
5. Xu, Wangzheng	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @10:00 AM
6. Huang,Ming Shan	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @10:30 AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

Employer	Case Number	Date/ Time
Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 1 PM
Hua Lian Trading	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 130 PM
Wang Lili	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 200 PM

Dated this 24th day of July 2009.

Jeffrey T. Camacho
Director of Labor/Designee



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



FINAL NOTICE ON BOND CLAIMS
ALL LABOR AND CONSOLIDATED AGENCY CASES 2008 AND ALL PRIOR YEARS
July 20, 2009, first notice
July 27, 2009, second notice

COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:

All labor cases and all consolidated agency cases filed in 2008 and prior years have been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims for money damages have been adjudicated or dismissed.

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in a labor case or a consolidated agency case filed in 2008 or any prior year who has not been paid in full and **who has not previously registered** a bond claim with the Labor Department or **who does not have a court case pending** on a bond claim should register with the Labor Department. Please come to the Complaint Intake Section, Department of Labor, and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your entry permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has **until August 20, 2009** to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

If you have previously registered your bond claim with the Complaint Intake Section, your bond claim is being processed and you do not need to register again. The Department has published several notices with respect to groups of bond claims in order to process these claims in an efficient manner.

If you have filed a court case with respect to your bond claim, your claim is being processed by the court and the Department will not accept any registration.

If you previously registered your bond claim with the federal ombudsman, and you have not registered with the Labor Department, you need to register again with the Labor Department. The federal ombudsman has not supplied the Labor Department with the complete registration records that their office created. Notices with respect to all claims filed with the federal ombudsman's office, about which the Department has any information, have been published.

Not all awards in labor cases or consolidated agency cases are covered by bonds. Some awards are only partially covered because the terms of most labor bonds are limited to three months' wages and a set amount for medical expenses or repatriation tickets. The terms of labor bonds assume that foreign workers will file their claims promptly and will not let wage claims of more than three months accumulate. Some awards are not covered by a labor bond at all. Some employment was illegal because the employer never completed the Labor Department requirements and never supplied a bond. However, all unpaid awards from the Hearing Office should be registered and the Department will process all registered claims.

If you have questions about registering a bond claim, please call Renita Camacho, who is in charge of the Complaint Intake Office, at: 236-0958/7/6.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

The vice president's diplomacy

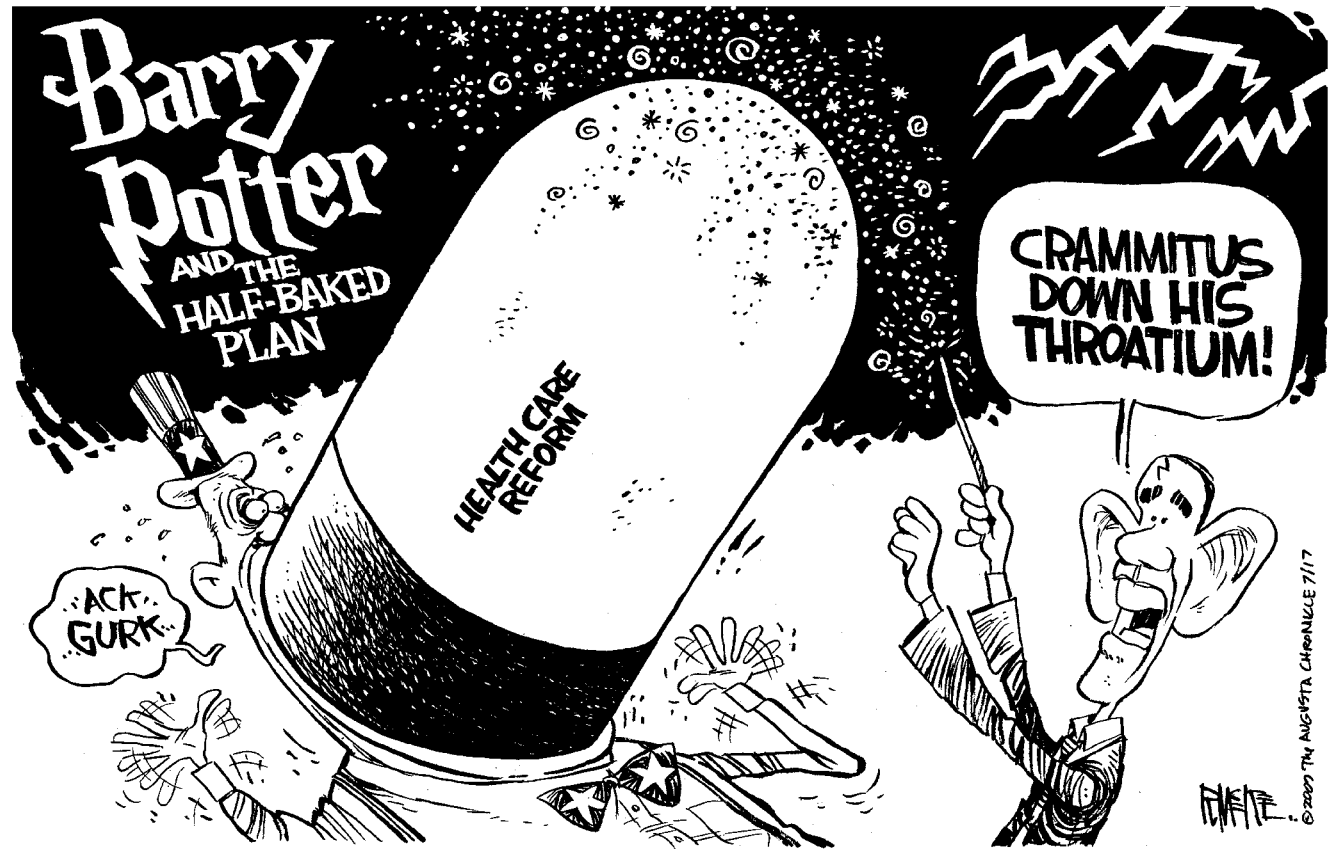
During a generally upbeat visit to Moscow this month, President Obama made clear that the United States and Russia still have a major difference over the Kremlin's view that some of the countries that formed the Soviet Union must now live under its autocratic "sphere of influence." Obama urged the regime of Vladimir Putin to abandon such "19th century" thinking; but since it shows no sign of doing so, governments such as those of Ukraine and Georgia—both democratically elected and Western-leaning—could be excused for worrying that a "reset" of U.S.-Russian relations might happen at their expense.

That's why Vice President Biden performed a valuable service this week by traveling to the capitals of both countries. Biden met the Ukrainian and Georgian presidents as well as their leading political opponents, and he delivered major public addresses in which he reaffirmed U.S. support for the two countries' sovereign choices. "As we reset the relationship with Russia, we reaffirm our commitment to an independent Ukraine," he said in Kiev. "We understand that Georgia wants to join NATO. We fully support that aspiration," he said in Tbilisi.

To his credit, the vice president didn't limit his messages to stroking. In Ukraine he forcefully urged feuding political leaders to overcome their quarrels and address their country's heavy dependence on Russian energy imports. In Georgia Biden publicly prodded President Mikheil Saakashvili to deliver on promised political reforms and met with his opposition. He emphasized that two provinces invaded and occupied by Russia last year could be recovered not by military means but only by building a tolerant and prosperous country.

The administration must now determine how best to follow Biden's words with actions. The vice president announced the establishment of a U.S.-Ukrainian working group on energy security, which could help Ukraine achieve the efficiency reforms that would free it from dependence on Russia—which has twice cut off supplies of gas in midwinter. But in Georgia the U.S. delegation was noncommittal in response to Georgian requests that the United States supply defensive weapons and join a European Union mission that monitors the volatile ceasefire line with Russia. The administration may be right to be cautious about weapons sales, while continuing to train the Georgian army. But, if requested by the European Union, it should join in the monitoring mission. Placing U.S. personnel on the ground would eliminate any doubt about America's stance against Russian neo-imperialism—and make it less likely that Putin would again attempt to subdue a neighbor by force.

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What the CIA didn't say

As ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee from 2003 to 2006, I was part of the so-called Gang of Eight—a group made up of the House and Senate leaders plus the chairs and ranking members of the two chambers' intelligence committees that is required by law to be briefed on the CIA's "covert" action programs.

Those briefings were conducted roughly quarterly at the White House—either in the vice president's office or the Situation Room. Most of the ones I attended concerned a code-named program now known as the Terrorist Surveillance Program. Respectful of the double oath I signed to protect highly classified material, I did not take notes or speak to anyone about the meetings. However, comments by Michael Hayden, former director of the National Security Agency and the CIA, that the Gang of Eight was "fully" briefed on the TSP prompt me to disclose, for the first time, what they were like.

In virtually every meeting, Hayden would present PowerPoint slides, walking us through the operational details of the TSP. The program has since been described, in part, as one that intercepted communications to and from the U.S. in an effort to uncover terrorist networks and prevent or disrupt attacks. We were told that the program was the centerpiece of our counterterrorism efforts, legal and yielding impressive results.

Often present were CIA officials (including then-Director George Tenet) and then-White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales. Missing was any Justice Department presence—a tipoff, in retrospect, to the legal limbo under which the program operated.

Fast-forward to the jaw-dropping inspectors general report released this month, which makes clear that the TSP's legal underpinnings were fatally flawed and its results minimal. Those topics consumed scant time at our briefings. Why?

It is now clear to me that we learned only what the briefers wanted to tell us—even though they were required by law to keep us "fully and currently informed." Absent the ability to do any independent research, it did not occur to me then that the program was operated wholly outside of the framework Congress created as the exclusive means to conduct such surveillance: the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Nor did I know that the Justice Department was cut out of the process and that one lawyer, John Yoo, had drafted the internal memo justifying the TSP under the president's Article 2 authorities. A new head of the Office of Legal Counsel repudiated that memo, citing the "shoddiness" of the legal reasoning. Among other things, it even

By JANE HARMAN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Harman, D-Calif., chairs the House Homeland Security subcommittee on intelligence and terrorism risk assessment.



failed to cite the key Supreme Court precedent—the steel-seizure case—which held in 1952 that when Congress has acted on an issue (as it did by passing FISA in 1978), the president's power is at its "lowest ebb."

And I did not know—until I read it in the media—of the 2004 drama at then-Attorney General John Ashcroft's hospital bedside, when Bush officials sought his sign-off on an extension of the program. I recall being told that there was a "glitch" in the approval process. A glitch? More like a near-hijacking of our democracy.

Much has happened since. The Yoo memo was officially discredited and replaced. After considerable resistance, the Bush administration finally briefed the full intelligence committees, and FISA was amended to assure its application to the TSP.

In a July 16 commentary in The Wall Street Journal, Yoo wrote that, "It is absurd to think that a law like FISA should inhibit live military operations against potential attacks on the United States." I see it rather differently. Although our country had experienced the worst terrorist attack in our history, the Orwellian solution conjured up by a small group in the Bush administration was to shred our laws and Constitution in order to save us—a false and unnecessary choice.

Security and liberty are not a zero-sum game. Our Constitution protects both. Members of each branch of government take an oath to uphold the Constitution. Bipartisan oversight by Congress to assure that the laws we pass are faithfully executed is an indispensable part of that equation.

The House and Senate intelligence authorization bills would require increased notification, including, in the House bill, information on lawfulness, cost, benefit and risk. The White House has issued a veto threat, citing constitutional concerns. Surely both sides—and policy—would profit more from a robust partnership.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Learning community

The phrase “learning organization” has been around for quite awhile in management literature. It points to a shift from thinking of structure as a set of idealized design components set in stone at the beginning by a master designer to be faithfully implemented by a disciplined and faithful general to the organic model of growth where every part of a system plays a critical but on-going role in the evolution from then/there to now/here to then/there. This has also been called “systems thinking.” Google the term and one gets a rich tableau of what this phrase is pointing to.

Enough of the big words. PSS has used that term for as long as I have been associated with the system. (BTW, I continue to think under their aegis though momentarily outside its formal structure; I am making comments from the inside looking around rather than an outsider looking inside.)

I have distinguished learning as an intentional activity of the *homo sapiens*, that part of planetary life that has shown the ability to be conscious of its consciousness. It knows itself to be a seeing organism in a world where things can be seen; it knows itself to be a hearing organism in a world surrounded by sound. More importantly, it knows itself as an organism capable of seeing itself while in the act of seeing, and to hear itself in the process of hearing. This ability to be conscious of being conscious at being conscious is *ad infinitum*.

In a sense, all forms of life shows consciousness in responding to outside stimulus. A backyard pig understands itself in a state of hunger and reflexively dives its nozzle on a trough and proceeds to guzzle the proffered set of food scraps and leavings.

A *homo sapiens* anticipates and schedules hunger at 6pm and books a table at 360 restaurant anticipating a friendly ambience, tasteful viands and efficient food service. In a time of recession, the husband-chef and/or the gourmand-wife may choose to do the whole set-up themselves. The point is, the *homo sapiens* is capable of seeing the gifts and possibilities of life’s substance, anticipates and plans the style by which it is lived, and proceeds to exist on this consciousness!

Now, to PSS as a “learning community.” Has it shown its self-reflective capability? Hm-m-m-m-m. It has encouraged “small” gatherings, purportedly intended for research, development and training. Invariably, however, those sessions in my experience have been occasions to transmit the latest wisdom of someone else’s “research-based” curriculum (e.g., reading Academy), rather than facilitating the bubbling up of authentic and genuine learning from the bottom-up for mass consideration and appropriation.

Learning as a progression of what one experiences, reflecting on the impact of the experience, gleanings the learning and meaning of the experience, and guiding plans and deeds on the basis of appropriated learning is virtually non-existent. That is neither a judgment to elicit shame or guilt. It is intended simply as a general statement of fact.

This is where the notion of “community” comes in. Our commu-

nities are stratified structures where the common is supposed to rise to the level of the special. Leadership is perceived as an honored position, thus, the expression of gratitude from every elected official or promoted officer for the opportunity and recognition as a leader.

Designed as a business book, Peter Block wrote *COMMUNITY, the structure of belonging*. With a good sense of humor, he opens with a quote from Sigmund Freud: “the first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.” I read that as the difference between sending sensitive and responsive diplomats rather than hurling calibrated and guided missiles (at the State level), and the difference between open and affirming teachers rather than threat-throwing and fear-inflicting demi-gods (at the

I went bald when the Legislature distributed copies of their resolution to the ToYs. No one noticed. I was going to go “drag” during the Education Day presentation of ToYs in support of the Jonas Barcinas brouhaha over transgender dressing at a culture day fest in Dandan. My SVES colleagues thought it would be inappropriate and threatened to boycott the parade since ToY represents the school rather than the individual. In a strange way, that was the first instance of my feeling that someone in the system cared about what I did or would do!

classroom level).

The PSS as a “structure of belonging” might be the first arena for our consideration. The stakeholders are the students, teachers, parents, administrators and the village or immediate geography of the community (since we designate schools by their geographical location, and students’ qualification of attendance is based on that basis).

Do we encourage children to enter our schools as the possibly cheerful, playful and naturally curious creatures that they often are, or can be? Hardly. As a kindergarten child’s comment (real or apocryphal, it remains true): “I was encouraged to talk and speak my mind for as long as I could remember until I came to school, and now, my teacher wants me to shut-up!” This process even begins early at the home where the eager parents (particularly, immigrant families) desperately want their children to do well in school that they impose abstract learning of the language of words and numbers

steel industry) also have been shut out.

Canadian municipalities have responded with “don’t buy American” rules, while the Chinese and others have introduced their own buy-local provisions, all to the chagrin of U.S. exporters and the general economy.

One would expect the president to respond with dispatch, at the very least issuing clear implementing guidelines. Instead, the Obama administration has done nothing but “seek comment.” Our comment is this: The president’s disregard for the matter is slowing economic recovery, tempting further escalation by our trade partners and cementing the United States’ reputation as an international trade scofflaw.

Likewise, when Congress defunded a program that enabled Mexican trucks to operate on our roads -- placing the U.S. in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Obama offered assurances of a quick resolution. Five months later, there is no fix in sight. To hasten a resolution, the Mexican government imposed \$2.4 billion in retaliatory duties on about 90 U.S. exports, and a Mexican trucking association filed a \$6-billion lawsuit against the U.S. government.

The reduction in cross-border trade and investment cannot be the economic elixir the president had in mind, nor is the dispute his preferred launching point for diplomatic relations with Mexico. Yet the administration is content, after five months, to just study the problem. How much study is needed to conclude that blatant violation of our NAFTA obligations, plus potentially \$8.4 billion in direct costs, plus higher transportation costs on the entire North American supply chain for the benefit of the Teamsters, is a bad idea?

Meanwhile, despite claims that the administration would work with Congress to pass long-pending trade agreements with Panama, Colom-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section



on their children as soon as they are able to. Being self-conscious of the images we create about our experience is not a pedagogical tool commonly employed.

The compliant child until fifth grade doubles its brain cells at puberty and the accompanying hormones wreak havoc to the behavior and our image of the sedate child of our creation. The widely practiced carrot-and-stick method of discipline is mostly stick. The carrot comes in the form of “what you do reflect on me as a teacher,” which is supposed to encourage children to behave especially when the teacher gets the no-no pizza delivered after payday, or have an outing or field trip as a result of “good behavior.”

“Belonging” as being part of or having a sense of ownership of the school is barely existent among students. This holds true among teachers as well. Bluntly, teaching has been reduced to a paycheck, structurally and practically. The two-year contract cycle is a disincentive. Teachers are steep in the culture of compliance, if they intend to be retained. Pharisaical adherence to proscribed rules is the rule, and nary an exception.

Ironically, I was voted in as a ToY awardee at my school while I did not have a signed contract. I used the occasion for protest, first, to call attention to the irrationality of the PRAXIS decision with T-shirts distributed to members of BoE bearing the sign: No Teachers Left Behind, a play on the NCLB title. Did not even elicit a comment.

I went bald when the Legislature distributed copies of their resolution to the ToYs. No one noticed. I was going to go “drag” during the Education Day presentation of ToYs in support of the Jonas Barcinas brouhaha over transgender dressing at a culture day fest in Dandan. My SVES colleagues thought it would be inappropriate and threatened to boycott the parade since ToY represents the school rather than the individual. In a strange way, that was the first instance of my feeling that someone in the system cared about what I did or would do!

Now comes Obama’s stimulus package on education. Might this be an occasion to shift paradigm from structure of compliance to the organic growth of a ‘Learning Community’? How would parents and the village play a significant role? Is the administration open to conversations, discussions, and dialogue?

In our lounge chairs by the lagoon this summer, when the living is easy, might we ponder what it really means to be a learning community?

bia and South Korea, those deals remain hostage to cynical politics.

The president speaks of a renewed internationalism and multilateralism in foreign policy, yet his trade policy whiffs of nationalism and unilateralism. That won’t help restore America’s image abroad, where most countries regard U.S. trade policy as the face of U.S. foreign policy.

The inconsistency between the president’s words and deeds betrays a man concerned with politics above all else. But the politics of trade are changing, and Obama has an opportunity to shepherd his party back from the fringe.

Recent polls indicate that Americans are shedding their skepticism about trade’s benefits. The founding of the Congressional Pro-Trade Caucus by Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, this year suggests that protectionism is not the Democratic Party’s creed but rather that of a loud minority led by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Rep. Michael Michaud, D-Maine.

Democrats who seek to restrict trade must be held accountable when they also claim to speak for Main Street. Middle-income Americans spend more of their paychecks on imports than do wealthy Americans. Lower-income families spend a higher percentage of their budgets on necessities such as food, clothing and shelter (steel, lumber, cement), all of which face above-average import duties because of the efforts of unions and other protectionist lobbies. Tariffs are a highly regressive tax, which is supposed to be anathema to every card-carrying Democrat.

In the coming days, Obama will make his first major speech on the future of U.S. trade policy. If he really wants to bring his party into the 21st century and is truly committed to economic recovery and diplomatic fence-mending, he must ditch the flaccid rhetoric and launch an unabashedly pro-trade agenda now.

It’s pro-trade or bust for the US

By **DANIEL IKENSON** and **SCOTT LINCICOME**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ikenson is associate director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute, and Lincicome is an international trade attorney in Washington. They are the co-authors of the Cato Institute study, “Audaciously Hopeful: How President Obama Can Help Restore the Pro-Trade Consensus.”

President Barack Obama is neither a committed free-trader nor a hard-core protectionist. But his continuing failure to commit to a pro-trade agenda amounts to de facto protectionism and subverts his economic and foreign policy objectives.

Reacting recently to a provision in the climate change bill that would impose trade penalties against nations that do not limit carbon emissions enough, the president said, “At a time when the economy worldwide is still deep in recession and we’ve seen a significant drop in global trade, I think we have to be very careful about sending any protectionist signals.”






In that mild rebuke of protectionism lingers the essence of the administration’s nascent trade policy: conditional, ambiguous and not particularly reassuring.

Earlier this year, the president suggested that Congress avoid language in the stimulus bill that could provoke a trade war. Congress responded by pruning the bill’s most overtly protectionist provisions. But “buy American” fever has nonetheless permeated the government procurement market. Uncertainty surrounding the arcane rules has caused contractors to render their own judgments about what qualifies. Not only have eligible foreign companies been excluded from the market, but U.S. companies that use imported raw materials (including California’s entire

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI DAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼80

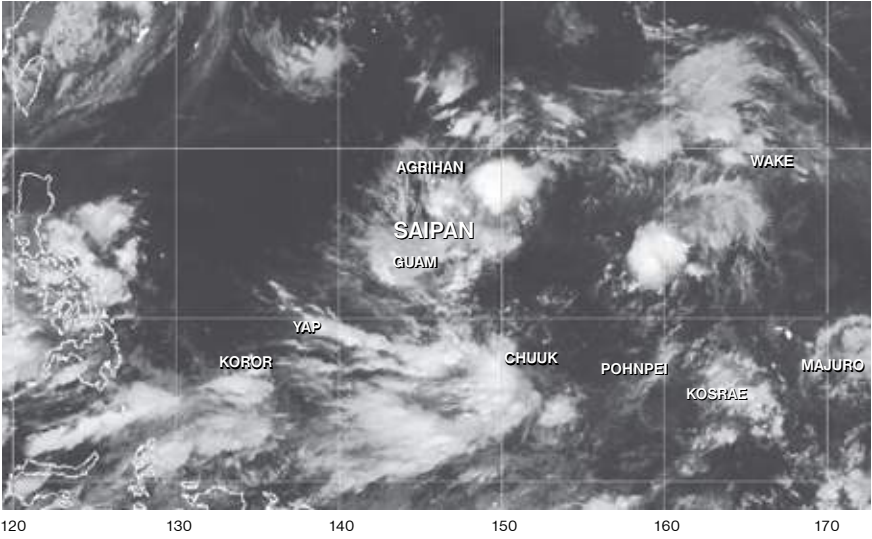
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲54 ▼44
Beijing	Sunny	▲91 ▼71
Hong Kong	Rain	▲90 ▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
London	Showers	▲73 ▼53
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼66
Manila	Rain	▲88 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲57 ▼42
Miami	Cloudy	▲91 ▼79
New York	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼72
Osaka	Showers	▲84 ▼71
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼54
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲80 ▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲90 ▼67
Salem	Hot	▲96 ▼59
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲85 ▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:56 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:28 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:43 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:53 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A circulation is centered northeast of the Marianas near 19N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in an area bounded by a line from 19N147E to 19N151E to 13N152E to Rota back to 19N147E. This area also includes Saipan. A monsoon trough runs southeastward from a circulation centered northwest of Yap near 12N130E to 10N143E to another circulation centered near 7N153E to end at EQ168E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across a broad area of western Micronesia between 3N and 8N from 130E to 154E. This area includes Koror and Chuuk. A weak upper-level trough runs westward from 25N153E to 25N160E then turns northeastward to beyond 25N at 166E. Upper-level divergence south of the trough is triggering scattered showers within 50 miles of a line from 22N150E to 21N155E. A developing surface trough is located northeast of Pohnpei between 8N160E to 17N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 150 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Majuro between 4N and 8N from 171E to 174E and also east of Tarawa and Butaritari atolls within 100 miles of a line from EQ175E to 7N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:41 AM	10:40 PM
Tuesday	11:35 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	12:28 PM	
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:04 AM
Friday	2:16 PM	12:50 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Profits embolden US companies, but revenue lacking

NEW YORK (AP)—Corporate America is turning a profit again, but only by spending less, not making more.

While recent bullish profit reports have fueled the stock market, a true economic revival will depend on consumers opening their wallets. So far, there's little evidence of that.

Big names such as Caterpillar, IBM, Whirlpool, Pfizer, 3M and Lowe's boosted profit forecasts for 2009 following a slew of second-quarter earning reports that blew past lackluster expectations. Yet the gains aren't coming from sales.

Rather, companies are slashing everything from jobs to of-

ficer perks to boost the bottom line and please investors who have responded by pushing the major stock indexes to their highest levels in months.

None of this is surprising coming out of a recession. But the increase in the major stock indexes is raising questions about whether investors are getting ahead of themselves. Companies can only cut costs so much, and the profits and the stock surge aren't likely to last without a sustained economic recovery that puts people in the mood to spend again.

"Cost saving is not going to be the source of future earnings," said Fred Fraenkel, vice

chairman of the Beacon Trust Company, an investment management firm. "The source is going to be revenue, and that can't happen until the economy starts growing."

Many companies are taking steps that could lead to even better year-over-year earnings growth in the third and fourth quarters. Last year, companies were unprepared for the plunge in consumer spending that followed the credit crisis and stock market collapse in September and October. Revenue fell sharply, but there wasn't enough time to cut costs, so profits tumbled.

Now, months of cost reduc-

tions are paying off, and investors are eating it up. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has shot up 44 percent since early March, while the Dow Jones industrials jumped above

9,000 Thursday for the first time since early January. On Friday, the Dow rose 23.95, or 0.3 percent, to 9,093.24.

Edward Yardeni, an independent market analyst, said

the rally is justified. "But if all these companies do is cut costs and they can't find ways to expand revenue, all they're doing is shrinking and that's not bullish," he said.

E-China: The bicycle kingdom is going electric

SHANGHAI (AP)—It's a simple pleasure, but Xu Beilu savors it daily: gliding past snarled traffic on her motorized bicycle, relaxed and sweat-free alongside the pedal-pushing masses.

China, the world's bicycle kingdom—one for every three inhabitants—is going electric.

Workers weary of crammed public transport or pedaling long distances to jobs are upgrading to battery-powered bikes and scooters. Even some who can afford cars are ditching them for electric two-wheelers to avoid traffic jams and expensive gasoline.

The bicycle was a vivid symbol of China in more doctrinaire

communist times, when virtually no one owned a car. Even now, nearly two decades after the country began its great leap into capitalism, it still has 430 million bicycles by government count, outnumbering electric bikes and scooters 7-1.

But production of electric two-wheelers has soared from fewer than 200,000 eight years ago to 22 million last year, mostly for the domestic market. The industry estimates about 65 million are on Chinese roads.

Car sales are also booming but there are still only 24 million for civilian use, because few of the 1.3 billion population can afford them. And unlike in many other developing countries, Chinese

cities still have plenty of bicycle lanes, even if some have made way for cars and buses.

"E-bike" riders are on the move in the morning or late at night, in good weather or bad. When it's wet, they are a rainbow army in plastic capes. On fine days, women don gloves, long-sleeved white aprons and face-covering sun guards.

One of them is Xu, on her Yamaha e-bike, making the half-hour commute from her apartment to her job as a marketing manager. She had thought of buying a car but dropped the idea. "It's obvious that driving would be more comfortable, but it's expensive," she says.

Ericsson buys Nortel wireless units for \$1.13 bln

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Swedish wireless equipment maker LM Ericsson on Saturday said it had penned a deal to buy a majority of Nortel Networks' North American wireless business for \$1.13 billion.

The Stockholm-based group said the purchase is on a cash and debt-free basis and covers the older CDMA and newer LTE wireless businesses of Nortel's Carrier Networks unit.

Nortel on Friday placed its wireless business up for auction behind closed doors in New York

City, and international tech industry titans submitted their best offers for the prized division.

Nortel, a former telecommunications equipment powerhouse, sought bankruptcy protection in January and the auction was planned after the company said it planned to liquidate its business.

The deal is subject to approval by relevant authorities.

Ericsson CEO Carl-Henric Svanberg said in a statement that the acquisition would add 2,500 employees to his company, of

which about 400 are focused on LTE research and development.

"Acquiring Nortel's North American CDMA business allows us to serve this important region better as we build relationships for the future migration to LTE," he said.

Under the deal, Ericsson will get CDMA contracts with North American operators such as Verizon, Sprint, U.S. Cellular, Bell Canada and Leap, as well as LTE assets, and certain patents and patent licenses relating to CDMA and LTE.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Schumer wants to curb traders' flash orders

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has asked federal securities regulators to crack down on a high-speed computing advantage that large financial firms have over other investors. If the Securities and Exchange Commission does not curb a practice that Schumer says gives certain professional investors an unfair advantage, he told the agency in a letter that he will try to do so legislatively. "The integrity of our capital markets is being compromised by the ability of some insiders to view order information before it is available to the entire market," Schumer said in a letter Friday to SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro. This allows them "to profit from that information at the expense of other investors."

Citi exec's pay package may spark govt showdown

The hefty 2009 pay package of Andrew J. Hall, leader of Citigroup Inc.'s lucrative Phibro energy trading unit, may spark a showdown between the New York-based bank and government pay czar Kenneth Feinberg. Hall's division generates

a substantial chunk of Citigroup's profit, which the bank sorely needs to get back on its feet and eventually repay the \$45 billion it has received in government aid. Under the terms of his contract, Hall's compensation is linked to Phibro's profits, but the size of his 2009 pay package, which The Wall Street Journal estimated Saturday may total \$100 million, could fuel political and shareholder anger against Citi. (AP)

Bill Gates receives Indira Gandhi Prize in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates on Saturday received the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development from India's president, a government statement said. The prize recognizes his work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It is awarded annually to individuals or organizations for creative efforts that promote peace, development and a new international economic order. As of this month, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had committed nearly \$1 billion for health and development projects in India. Most of the money has gone to prevent AIDS and eradicate polio.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-120**

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"**

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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPH-123 (A-J)**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 19, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.



**"PURCHASE OF 18-25 LAPTOPS, 2-4 LAPTOPS, 1-2
LAPTOPS, 5-7 DESKTOP COMPUTERS, 1 DESKTOP
COMPUTER, 1 MONITOR, 2-4 PROJECTORS, 1-2
COPIER/FAX/SCANNER, 1 SCANNER AND 1 DOCU-
MENT MANAGEMENT/ARCHIVING SOFTWARE FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"**

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-115**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.



**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE
MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION -
TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA
CIF-TINIAN AND ROTA"**

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/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPH-124 CIF-SAIPAN FOB: CHC/MSO**

BID SUBMISSION: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
BID OPENING: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.



**"PURCHASE OF ELEVEN (11) PORTABLE
GENERATORS 17,500 WATTS CAPACITY
AND TRANSFER KITS FOR THE DEPART-
MENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"**

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DLNR/FW-112**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.



**"TO REPLACE THE TERMITE DAMAGED WOOD
CABINETS AND SHELVES IN THE FISHERIES WARE-
HOUSE FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE -
FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM"**

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/s/ IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ D.V.M.
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA-109**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES
FOR THE DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"**

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ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. CALVANI P. DLGUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF DYS BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2560 OR E-MAIL TO cdlguerrero@gmail.com NO LATER THAN AUGUST 07, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

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/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Lobbyists the silver lining in health care storm?

WASHINGTON (AP)—A strong force, perhaps as powerful in Congress as President Barack Obama, is keeping the drive for health care going even as lawmakers seem hopelessly at odds.

Lobbyists.

The drug industry, the American Medical Association, hospital groups and the insurance lobby are all saying Congress must make major changes this year. Television ads paid for by drug companies and insurers continued to emphasize the benefits of a health care overhaul—not the groups' objections to some of the proposals.

"My gut is telling me that something major can pass because all the people who could kill it are still at the table," said Ken Thorpe, chairman of health policy at Emory University in Atlanta. "Everybody has issues with bits and pieces of it, but all these groups want to get something done this year." As a senior official at the Health and Human Services department in the 1990s, Thorpe was deeply involved in the Clinton administration's failed effort.



In this May 11, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama, accompanied by American Medical Association President J. James Rohack, speaks about health care in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

President Barack Obama on Saturday continued his full-court press to pass health care reform legislation. In his weekly Internet and radio address, Obama cited a new White House study indicating that small businesses pay far more per employee for health insurance than big companies—a disparity he says is "unsustainable—it's unacceptable."

"And it's going to change when I sign health insurance reform into law," Obama said, adding that he has "a sense of urgency about moving this process forward."

This time, the health care industry groups see a strategic opportunity. As lawmakers squabble, the groups are focused on how to come out ahead in the end game.

"We're still optimistic that we can get health care reform accomplished," said Robert Zirkelbach, spokesman for America's Health Insurance Plans, the main insurance industry trade group. "There is strong support from policymakers and from across the health care sector."

Defense secretary scores big wins on weapons cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert Gates is on a roll. Question is, how long will it last?

The politically savvy defense secretary scored big legislative wins when the Senate voted convincingly to end production of the high-priced F-22 jet fighter and killed an aircraft engine project that he says isn't needed.

Gates, a Republican holdover from the Bush administration, is on a campaign to change the way the Pentagon does business.

In his sights are unnecessary or financially troubled weapons that siphon money away from the troops and gear required for irregular wars now being fought in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Yet getting Capitol Hill to go along with further deep cuts to big-ticket programs remains

a huge challenge as lawmakers claw to protect the jobs these projects create in their states and districts. Others have serious disagreements with the Obama administration's strategic choices.

Case in point: House lawmakers want to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for equipment Gates doesn't want, including more than \$400 million for the VH-71 presidential helicopter that the Pentagon wants canceled for being behind schedule and vastly over budget.

"It's the rarest occasion when a mature weapons system, with all the contracts and subcontracts, is terminated by the Congress of the United States," Republican Sen. John McCain, who voted in favor of killing the F-22, said recently.

Those hoping the defense budget will be purged of Cold War-style weapons look to be disappointed.

Iran and North Korea are perceived threats in the short run, and superpowers China and Russia still loom as po-

tential threats over time. That means the U.S. arsenal will remain loaded with aircraft carriers, ballistic missiles, nuclear submarines, tanks and long-range bombers like the durable B-52 of Cold War-vintage.

ON THE NET

Defense Department:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Gates says it's time to 'move on' from his arrest

BOSTON (AP)—Black Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. says he's ready to move on from his arrest by a white police officer, hoping to use the encounter to improve fairness in the criminal justice system and saying "in the end, this is not about me at all."

After a phone call from President Barack Obama urging calm in the aftermath of his arrest last week, Gates said he would accept Obama's invitation to the White House for a beer with him and



This 1997 file photo released by Harvard University shows professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, Mass.

Cambridge police Sgt. James Crowley.

In a statement posted Friday on The Root, a Web site Gates oversees, the scholar said he told Obama he'd be happy to meet with Crowley, whom Gates had accused of racial profiling.

"I told the president that my principal regret was that all of the attention paid to his deeply supportive remarks during his press conference had distracted attention from his health care initiative," Gates said. "I am pleased that he, too, is eager to use my experience as a teaching moment, and if meeting Sergeant Crowley for a beer with the president will further that end, then I would be happy to oblige."

In Texas, drought means conserving every last drop

DALLAS (AP)—Off-duty police officers are patrolling streets, looking for people illegally watering their lawns and gardens. Residents are encouraged to stealthily rat out water scofflaws on a 24-hour hot line. One Texas lake has dipped so low that stolen cars dumped years ago are peeking up through the waterline.

The nation's most drought-stricken state is deep-frying under relentless 100-degree days and waterways are drying up, especially in the hardest-hit area covering about 350 miles across south-central Texas. That's making folks worried about the water supply—and how long it might last.

"The water table's fallin' and fallin' and fallin,' like a whole lot of other people around here," said Wendell McLeod, general manager of Liberty Hill Water Supply Corp. and a 60-year resident of the town northwest of Austin. "This is the worst I can recall seeing it. I tell you, it's just pretty bleak."

There are 230 Texas public water

systems under mandatory water restrictions, including those in and near San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin. Another 60 or so have asked for voluntary cutbacks. Water levels are down significantly in lakes, rivers and wells around Texas.

Liberty Hill's Web site urges its 1,400 or so residents in all-red letters to stop using unnecessary water with this plea: "If we follow these strict guidelines, we may have drinking water." The town's shortage eased some with the arrival this week of 35,000 gallons a day from a nearby water system, but residents are still worried.

According to drought statistics released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 77 of Texas' 254 counties are in extreme or exceptional drought, the most severe categories. No other state in the continental U.S. has even one area in those categories. John Nielsen-Gammon, the Texas state climatologist at Texas A&M University, said he expects harsh drought conditions to last at least another month.



ACROSS THE NATION

NJ mayor's arrest puts spotlight on historic city

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP)—Even in the state of "The Sopranos" and "On the Waterfront," where corruption seems institutionalized, the arrest of a neophyte mayor in office a mere three weeks stands out. Voters might wonder how Hoboken Mayor Peter Cammarano, no grizzled politician but a 32-year-old lawyer with a promising political career, could be accused of taking \$25,000 in bribes after watching so many politicians follow the same road to jail. Authorities said that what he told a government witness wearing a wire—a purported real-

estate developer whom Cammarano assured he would treat "like a friend"—not only led to his arrest but also added a new chapter to New Jersey's culture of corruption.

Ala. senator mum on his decision about Sotomayor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee says he has made up his mind on Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, but he's not ready to make his decision public. Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama said before the Tennessee

Republican Party's annual fundraiser on Saturday that he expects the vote on Democratic President Barack Obama's nominee to take place Tuesday. Session says he remains "very troubled by her responses" at confirmation hearings.

4 suspects detained in Mexico in US agent killing

CHULA VISTA, Calif. (AP)—Mexican police announced the arrests Saturday of four men suspected of involvement in the killing of a U.S. Border Patrol agent as American investigators searched hospitals for gunmen who were possibly wounded in the first such

shooting death in more than a decade. Investigators said they have notified hospitals on both sides of the border to be alert for patients with suspicious or unexplained injuries. They said at least two people may have been wounded and left blood at the scene.

Hubble image shows debris from Jupiter collision

BALTIMORE (AP)—NASA's Hubble Space Telescope is offering a glimpse of atmospheric debris from an object that plunged into Jupiter in a rare collision with the planet. Scientists used

the telescope Thursday to capture what they call the "sharpest visible-light picture" so far of the expanding gash. An amateur stargazer in Australia spotted the impression last Sunday. Amy Simon-Miller of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., says the magnitude of the impact is believed to be rare. Simon-Miller estimates the diameter of the object that hit the planet was the size of several football fields. The debris possibly came from a comet or asteroid that hit Jupiter. NASA also says the new images prove repairs done on the Hubble in May were successful.

Asia

Suicide attackers strike southeastern Afghan city

KABUL (AP)—Less than a month before Afghanistan's presidential election, Taliban fighters wearing suicide vests attacked a provincial capital Saturday, triggering gunbattles that killed seven militants. U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke said it is "extraordinary" to hold a presidential election during a war.

U.S. and NATO forces have stepped up operations in hopes of ensuring enough security for a strong voter turnout for Afghanistan's Aug. 20 presidential election.

The assault in Khost began when at least six Taliban

fighters carrying AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades stormed the area around the main police station and a nearby government-run bank. All were shot and killed before they could detonate their suicide vests, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

A seventh attacker detonated a car rigged with explosives near a police rapid reaction force, wounding two policemen, the ministry said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary said all the attackers were killed, but the Defense Ministry later said an eighth attacker may have

escaped. The ministry said no government forces were killed but 14 people were wounded—11 civilians and three police.

The attack came five days after Taliban militants launched near-simultaneous assaults in Gardez, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Khost, and in the eastern city of Jalalabad. Six Afghan police and intelligence officers and eight militants died in the two attacks.

Though the three attacks did not kill large numbers of Afghan or U.S. security forces, they showed the tenuous security situation in Afghanistan's

countryside. Such attacks grab headlines in Afghanistan and raise the question of whether voters can safely go to polls.

The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard

Holbrooke, alluded to those concerns, saying Saturday it was "extraordinary" to hold an election in the middle of war. He said the vote faces "many complex challenges," includ-

ing security issues and access to polls for women. Authorities need a respectable turnout for the results to appear credible both here and in countries supporting the government.



An Afghan police officer look at a guard post which was damaged in an attack in Khost, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, July 25, 2009. Taliban

RP arrests suspect in cathedral bombing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have captured a Muslim rebel suspect wanted in connection with a bombing that killed six people near a Roman Catholic church in a southern city, the national police chief said Saturday.

The suspect, Salman Mohamadali, was arrested Thursday in Shariff Aguak township near Cotabato city where the July 5 blast also wounded 46 people, said police Director General Jesus Verzosa. Police seized a pistol, two hand grenades and cell phone from him.

Verzosa said that police believe Mohamadali is a member of a special operations group of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been fighting for Muslim self-rule in the southern Philippines for decades.

The bombing was followed two days later by another blast, also blamed on the separatists, that wounded 11 people in Iligan city, north of Cotabato. The attacks prompted the U.N. to suspend for a week food distributions to villagers displaced by fighting between government forces and rebels.

An explosion on Jolo Island on the day of the Iligan attack killed two and wounded about two dozen, but authorities suspect the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group was behind it.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesman Eid Kabalu denied the rebels were involved in the Cotabato and Iligan blasts. He said he could not immediately confirm if Mohamadali is a member of the rebel group.

Mohamadali is also suspected

in two bombings in Kidapawan, another southern city, in October 2007, Verzosa said, citing a police report.

News of his arrest comes just days after the government ordered a halt to military offensives against the rebel group in a bid to restart stalled peace talks and allow the 300,000 villagers displaced by fighting to return to their homes.

The front, believed to have over 11,000 fighters, has been battling the government for 40 years. Hostilities had subsided during the negotiations, but clashes erupted again in August 2008 when rebels launched attacks on Christian villages following a Supreme Court decision to throw out a preliminary deal for more Muslim autonomy in the south.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kyrgyz opposition cries fraud over vote

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Kyrgyzstan's opposition presented video recordings Saturday that it claims show widespread fraud in the recent presidential election and announced plans for anti-government demonstrations. President Kurmanbek Bakiyev won a second term in Thursday's election, taking 83 percent of the vote, according to official results in the Central Asian country that is critical to U.S. strategy in Afghanistan. But the opposition is crying fraud, and the election has come under sharp international criticism.

China announces first panda from frozen sperm

BEIJING (AP)—For the first time, a giant panda cub has been born in China after being conceived using frozen sperm, officials announced Friday—an innovation scientists hope will help the endangered species avoid extinction. The new cub's birth Thursday means breeders will no longer be forced to rely on semen from China's few virile males, and may even be able to bring in sperm from zoos in San Diego, Mexico City or elsewhere. That's key to promoting a healthy panda population because too much inbreeding can lead to birth defects that would further threaten the survival of the species.

Report: NKorea opens 1st fast-food restaurant

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—You still can't

get a hamburger in Pyongyang, but the suspiciously similar "minced beef and bread" is for sale at the North Korean capital's first fast-food restaurant, a news report said Saturday. The Samtaesong restaurant opened in the isolated communist country last month in cooperation with a Singaporean company, according to the Tokyo-based Choson Sinbo. The Singaporean company, which the newspaper did not name, provided training to restaurant staff and supplied equipment. The restaurant's interior appears to be styled after fast-food joints the world over, but the menu is careful not to call its signature fare a hamburger - lest it give the impression North Koreans had embraced the American icon.

RP to give \$20,000 to UN anti-piracy fund

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, which provides a significant number of the world's commercial sailors, said Saturday it would contribute \$20,000 to a U.N. trust fund to support Somali security forces in their fight against piracy. The Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that 44 Filipino sailors are currently being held by Somali pirates, who have severely disrupted shipping in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. The statement said the Philippines, which supplies about 30 percent of the world's 1.2 million merchant sailors, was "committed to help restore peace and security in Somalia."

Pakistan court delays Mumbai attack case for month

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court hearing the case against five men allegedly involved in the Mumbai attacks adjourned for more than a month on Saturday without reading out the charges, a defense lawyer said.

Pakistan's prosecution of suspects in the November killings of 166 people in India's financial capital is considered a test of its commitment to eradicate militancy on its soil, and any delay could test its already tense relations with its giant South Asian rival.

The U.S. is watching closely because it considers stability in Pakistan—and preserving the Muslim nation's general detente with India—key to the

defeat of insurgents in neighboring Afghanistan.

The delay until Aug. 29 allows some court officials to take vacations, said Shahbaz Rajput, a defense attorney. He said some legal issues also caused the delay, but he could not give details without the court's permission.

Rajput said the court failed to read the charges against the accused—akin to issuing an indictment—and that he is still waiting for copies of the list of charges and supporting evidence.

"I was supposed to get that today, but the court today heard arguments from both sides whether to hold the trial in private or in an open court," Rajput said, adding there was no deci-

sion on the issue.

Media were not allowed into the anti-terrorism court proceedings, which were held in a maximum security prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Pointing to the case against the five men, Pakistan insists it is doing its part to bring the Mumbai attackers to justice. But Pakistan has rejected Indian demands to extradite the suspects.

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said Saturday that the country was eager for results.

"We expect the perpetrators of the attacks to be brought to justice. We expect this to be done in a transparent manner and as soon as possible," Prakash said.

Pakistan journalists targets in Taliban insurgency

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The militants wore masks, carried weapons and came by the dozens. Still, they exhibited a strange sense of courtesy: They let the reporter's relatives leave the house before they bombed it.

Rehman Buner, who works for Khyber TV in Karachi and contributes to Voice of America's Deewa Radio, was not home when the 50 or so gunmen showed up. Buner told The Associated Press the gunmen said they'd been instructed by a "high command" to destroy the house because he had spoken negatively of the Taliban in a radio report.

As Pakistan tries to stave off a Taliban insurgency, journalists have been threatened, attacked and killed, and even their relatives have faced harm. The pressure hobbles a media that has flourished over the past decade and given Pakistanis a greater window into their often-inept government at a time when the world is watching.

Journalists say the culprits are both militants and government operatives, and that they appear determined to influence coverage. The picture is alarming enough that Pakistan is rivaling Iraq, Somalia and other conflict zones when it comes to danger

to media, watchdog groups say.

Buner, the journalist whose house was blown up, has since received threats telling him to keep quiet, "or otherwise they will silence me," he said. He has brought his relatives from Buner district to Karachi.

Throughout Pakistan's 61-year history—much of it marked by military rule—the media have faced numerous attempts at censorship. Ironically, it was under one of the military rulers, Pervez Musharraf, that private television channels were allowed to take off. Dozens of channels have appeared since, giving people an option other than state-run Pakistan TV.

World

Protesters call for end to Iranian rights abuses

LONDON (AP)—Protesters around the world called on Iran Saturday to end its clampdown on opposition activists, demanding the release of hundreds rounded up during demonstrations against the country's disputed election.

Groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International backed a global day of action, with protests planned in more than 80 cities, including several in the United States.

The protesters want Iranian authorities to release what they say are hundreds, or even thousands, of people detained during protests that followed the presidential election last month that returned Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power.

Inside Iran, as well, Iranian police and pro-government militia attacked and scattered hundreds of protesters who had gathered in Tehran in response to the global demonstrations of solidarity, witnesses said.

Demonstrators in Vanak and Mir-damad districts chanted "death to the dictator" and "we want our vote back" before they were attacked and beaten by police Saturday. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has declared Ahmadinejad's victory valid.

In the United States, several thousand people gathered in Los Angeles and San Francisco in rallies Saturday night.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, many wore green in solidarity with the Iranian protesters. Coordinator



Demonstrators shout slogans during a protest to denounce the Iranian election results and human rights abuses in Iran outside Iranian Embassy in London, Saturday, July 25, 2009. AP

Elahe Amani said the protesters called for the United Nations to send a delegation to Iran in order to investigate the violence. Thousands more shouted "Free Iran" earlier Saturday in front of San Francisco City Hall.

Several hundred protesters assembled just off Times Square in New York City. One man hoisted a green placard, splattered with red, that read, "Where is my vote?" The crowd chanted, "Stop

the killing. Stop the torture." A small group of Iranians in New York have been on a three-day hunger strike and are holding frequent demonstrations outside the United Nations to call on the world body to investigate human rights abuses in Iran.

In Washington, hundreds of demonstrators were marching from a U.N. office downtown to the National Mall for a rally.

Iran's opposition turns to top clerics for help

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's opposition leaders appealed on Saturday to top clerics in the holy city of Qom to help stop the ruling Islamic regime's violent postelection crackdown - reaching out to the one group that could go head-to-head with the country's supreme leader.

The reformists compared the regime's crackdown to that of the late shah of Iran, remembered in the country for his brutal secret police, with one opposition leader even tactics were worse than those used by the Israelis against the Palestinians.

Iran's opposition maintains that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole the June 12 elections from opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi by engaging in massive fraud, but its demonstrations have been ruthlessly suppressed leaving hundreds, if not thousands, in prison.

The opposition has been hampered by the firm backing given the president and his election win by the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who in Iran's Islamic republic has the final say in all state matters.

A possible counterweight to Khamenei's wide-ranging powers,

however, is the moral authority of nine clerics in the holy city of Qom that are "marja' taqlid," or sources of emulation for Iran's Shiites.

Traditionally, these clerics, who have huge spiritual influence over Iranians, have stayed out of Iran's religious-based politics and they routinely congratulated each winner of the presidential election.

This time, however, only one has done so, while three others have spoken out against the violent crackdown against the hundreds of thousands of opposition supporters who took to the streets to protest the alleged election fraud.

Mousavi, who claims he won the election, former president Mohammad Khatami and 67 other prominent reformists sent a letter to the clerics saying authorities have held protesters and activists without charges and have used torture to extract confessions.

"We call on you, the marja' taqlid ... to remind the relevant authorities of the damaging consequences of employing unlawful methods and warn them about the spread of tyranny in the Islamic republic system," said the letter, a copy of which was made available to The Associated Press.

Morocco challenges Mideast Holocaust mind-set

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—From the western edge of the Muslim world, the King of Morocco has dared to tackle one of the most inflammatory issues in the Middle East conflict—the Holocaust.

At a time when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's dismissal of the Holocaust has made the biggest headlines, King Mohammed VI has called the Nazi destruction of the Jews "one of the most tragic chapters of modern history," and has endorsed a Paris-based program aimed at spreading the word among fellow Muslims.

Many in the Islamic world still ignore or know little about the Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jews during World War

II. Some disbelieve it outright. Others argue that it was a European crime and imagine it to be the reason Israel exists and the Palestinians are stateless.

The sentiment was starkly illustrated in March after a Palestinian youth orchestra performed for Israeli Holocaust survivors, only to be shut down by angry leaders of the West Bank refugee camp where they live.

"The Holocaust happened, but we are facing a similar massacre by the Jews themselves," a community leader named Adnan Hindi said at the time. "We lost our land and we were forced to flee."

Like other moderate Arab leaders, King Mohammed VI must tread care-

fully. Islamic fervor is rising in his kingdom, highlighted in 2003 by al-Qaida-inspired attacks in Casablanca on targets that included Jewish sites. Forty-five people died.

The king's acknowledgment of the Holocaust, in a speech read out in his name at a ceremony in Paris in March, appears to further illustrate the radically different paths that countries like Morocco and Iran are taking.

Morocco has long been a quiet pioneer in Arab-Israeli peace efforts, most notably when it served as a secret meeting place for the Israeli and Egyptian officials who set up President Anwar Sadat's groundbreaking journey to Jerusalem in 1977.

Exiled Honduran leader makes 2nd trip to border

LAS MANOS, Nicaragua (AP)—Deposed President Manuel Zelaya returned to the Honduran border on Saturday and announced he would set up camp there, despite foreign leaders urging him not to force a confrontation with the government that ousted him in last month's coup.

Zelaya arrived at a rural frontier crossing and immediately grabbed a megaphone, shouting to a crowd of 150 supporters and about as many journalists. He vowed to wait near the border and demanded his family be allowed to meet him.

"We are going to stand firm," Zelaya told the crowd, complaining that the interim government has not allowed

him to reunite with his family, whom he hasn't seen since he was whisked at gunpoint from his home June 28 and forced into exile.

"Today we are going to set up camps here, with water and food. We are going to stay here this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow morning," he said.

Zelaya's wife, Xiomara Castro, told CNN by telephone that she was stopped at a roadblock on a highway leading to the border and that police and soldiers would not let her and others pass.

Zelaya says he is going to commute back and forth between the border crossing and the Nicaraguan town of El Ocotal about 25 miles (40 kms) down the road, and probably won't try

another border crossing like the brief, symbolic trip a few meters (yards) into Honduran territory he performed Friday. He said he fears soldiers would attack his supporters if he did.

About 50 soldiers manned a line about 100 meters (yards) inside Honduran territory, with a few Honduran police a bit closer to the line.

By afternoon, the tents promised by Zelaya had yet to show up, and Zelaya's supporters sought shelter from afternoon rains under the eaves of border shops and ramshackle eateries. School buses drove the Zelaya supporters to El Ocotal to spend the night in a gymnasium before returning them to the border crossing Sunday morning.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mauritania police arrest al-Qaida murder suspect

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—A police official says officers have arrested a third suspected al-Qaida member for the June murder of American teacher. Police commissioner Mohamed Ould Ghassem says 26-year-old Didi Ould Bezeid was arrested Friday in Nouakchott, the capital. Ghassem said Bezeid was the third member of a suspected al-Qaida-linked terror cell that claimed responsibility for the murder of 39-year-old Christopher Ervin Leggett. The North Africa branch of al-Qaida claimed to have killed Leggett because he was allegedly trying to convert Muslims to Christianity. On July 17, police arrested two other suspects in the killing. One was found wearing an explosive belt.

Last UK veteran of WWI trench battles dies at 111

LONDON (AP)—Harry Patch, Britain's last survivor of the trenches of World War I, was a reluctant soldier who became a powerful eyewitness to the horror of war, and a symbol of a lost generation. Patch, who died Saturday at 111, was wounded in 1917 in the Battle of Passchendaele, which he remembered as "mud, mud and more mud

mixed together with blood." "Anyone who tells you that in the trenches they weren't scared, he's a damned liar: you were scared all the time," Patch was quoted as saying in a book, "The Last Fighting Tommy," written with historian Richard van Emden.

French pilot re-enacts 1st English Channel flight

CALAIS, France (AP)—A French pilot on Saturday recreated the first-ever flight across the English Channel in a monoplane like the one that Louis Bleriot flew in 1909, complete with a wooden propeller, bicycle wheels and an engine about as powerful as a lawnmower. Edmond Salis took off from Bleriot Beach, near Calais on France's northern coast, at 9:13 am local time (0713 GMT), arriving 40 minutes later in Dover. That's just slightly longer than it took Bleriot, who made his historic crossing July 25, 1909, in 38 minutes. "The takeoff was a bit delicate because there were crosswinds at Bleriot Beach," said Salis, decked out in a leather aviator jacket and hat and a flowing white scarf, in an interview on I-Tele television. "Once I was in the air, I could already see the English coast. Listen, the closer the English coast came, the more I enjoyed it."

Health & Fitness

Three wheels, an infomercial and an offbeat way to lose a few pounds

By LENNY BERNSTEIN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

"What IS that?" "How does it go?"

I am on Washington's Mall, outside the U.S. Botanic Garden, with Roy Brown and a small group of his friends and relatives, also known as the DC Metro Area Trikke Riders club. It is a sunny Sunday morning, and in various forms, those are the two questions this three-wheeled contraption provokes from tourists and passersby.

Remember the Trikke (pronounced "trike")? Me neither. But apparently plenty of people have seen the late-night infomercial featuring this adult scooter, and increasing numbers of people are buying them.

Learning to ride Trikkies "was very frustrating for me," says Roy Brown, who now sells and services them.

THE WASHINGTON POST



According to Trikke CEO John Simpson, the company sold 2,500 units in 2002 and more than 60,000 last year. Clubs have sprung up in 16 locations across the country, with no help or sponsorship from Trikke headquarters in Buellton, Calif. In 2002, Time named the Trikke one of the best inventions of the year.

The thing is more than a little strange to look at, with its oversize wheels, skateboard platforms and cambering handlebars. But it offers a full-body, no-impact workout, according to its adherents, at the same time that it gets you from Point A to Point B. And it's as much fun as a bicycle, once you learn how to ride it.

"To me, this solved the motivation problem," said Angela Roberts, Brown's wife and the woman who got the Trikke rolling in her household. "When I'm on it, I love it. When I'm off it, all I want to do is get back on it."

Roberts had been trying to lose weight for years when—you guessed it—she saw the infomercial and bought a Trikke a little over a year ago. She is 25 pounds lighter now, the result of the graceful arcs she traces just about everywhere.

Better yet, she put Brown, her husband, on it. Brown's job as a buffet manager at Charles Town Races and Slots had ballooned his weight to 325

pounds and, combined with his low-activity lifestyle, had given him Type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

"I said, 'There is no way I'm doing that. No way,'" Brown recalls. "She got it right away. But it was very frustrating for me."

Today, Brown is 15 pounds lighter and has quit his buffet job. He no longer requires insulin. He has started an exercise equipment business, Rock and Roll Fitness, out of his home in Charles Town, W.Va., where he sells, services and offers training on Trikkies. He says he has sold 170 so far. Prices range from \$120 for a child's model to \$600 for the most expensive adult Trikke.

You don't just jump on a Trikke and take off. It takes practice to find what Brown calls "the sweet spot" and what I thought of as my center of gravity. "Carving"—the leaning, back-and-forth motion that, along with leg power, is essential to moving the thing forward—is disconcerting at first. It takes a good bit of practice to go uphill, according to everyone who rides them.

You can jackknife if you're not careful, as first-timer Eric Strauchler found out that morning. He fell off in a heap, bruising his shoulder and collarbone, and scraping off some skin.

"We all have Trikke tattoos," Brown says.

When I call Strauchler the next day, he is sore but undaunted.

"I'm going to keep doing this. I'm not going to give up," says Strauchler, 52, a deckhand on an Army Corps of Engineers vessel that cleans debris from the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. "I think everyone falls off of something. When I was a kid, I rode a bike and I fell off many times."

I climb on Roberts' Trikke with a bit of trepidation and try to wriggle and lean it into motion. I go nowhere, becalmed on a sea of asphalt, until she tells me to think of the alternate-foot motion of inline skating. I give it a running start the second time and soon I am able to putter along for a few yards. The motion of the handlebars helps sustain my momentum, and as I grow more comfortable, the left-right lean isn't nearly as troubling. Others say the motion is closest to skiing.

Then Lawrence Mayes shows up. Mayes, 29, is a man among boys in the local Trikke club. He has done a 100-mile ride on a Trikke in less than nine hours and regularly zips along at an average of 12 mph. (He has a wrist GPS to prove it.) He is trying to hit a sustained 15 mph. You can see him in a YouTube video, but be forewarned: He crashes rather spectacularly and shows off some nasty road rash. (Search for "Trikke Crash Road Rash.")

Mayes, a Bank of America administrator from Chesapeake, Va., says he lost 36 pounds in three months after acquiring his Trikke with points he earned at work and has kept the weight off for a year. He rides his scooter to work a couple of days a week and sees no need for any other form of exercise.

"On a bike, if I did 30 miles, I would work the crap out of my legs," he says. "On the Trikke, if you do 30 miles, you feel it in your arms, your shoulders, your calves, your abs, your obliques."

Dutch researchers asked by Trikke Europe to study the scooter concluded that an average-size man who takes an hour-long ride at 9.3 mph would burn about 500 calories. Their study also explained how the carving motion propels the Trikke forward, but even after reading a translation of their analysis I'm still not sure I understand.

Simpson says the Trikke's future may be as a short-commute vehicle for people seeking a greener way to get to work. To help people when they need more than human energy to move their Trikke, the company markets versions powered by small electric motors. And the Trikke folds up and can be stashed in a closet.

"If you have a short commute and it's not raining or snowing and you want to get a workout and be gentle on the planet," he says, "this is the way to go."

'Lollipop' helps reveal shapes to the blind

By IBBY CAPUTO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

After Marine Cpl. Mike Jernigan was blinded by a roadside bomb in Iraq, he said, not much was done for him.

"I returned back from Iraq and (Veterans Affairs) gave me a stick. A stick and a tap on the butt and they said, 'Go ahead.'"

Five years later and thanks to the ambitions of a handful of people, Jernigan has more than a walking cane. He has been given a special "lollipop," a device that uses his tongue to stimulate his visual cortex and send sensory information to his brain.

Also called the intra-oral device, or IOD, the lollipop is an inch-square grid with 625 small round metal pieces. It is connected by a wire to a small camera mounted on a pair of sunglasses and to a hand-held controller about the size of a BlackBerry. The camera sends an image to the lollipop, which transmits a low-voltage pulse to Jernigan's tongue. With training, Jernigan has learned to translate that pulse into pictures. He can now identify the shapes of what is in front of him, even though both of his eyes have been removed.

"It's kind of like Braille that you use with your fingers," said Amy Nau, an optometrist who is researching the effectiveness of the device at the University of Pittsburgh. "Instead of symbols, it's a picture, and instead of your fingertips, it's your tongue."

The machine is called the BrainPort vision device and is manufactured by Wicab, a biomedical engineering company based in Middleton, Wis. It relies on sensory substitution, the process in which if one sense is damaged, the part of the brain that would normally control that sense can learn to perform another function. In Jernigan's case, the visual cortex is recruited to take on tactile recognition.

"Touch takes over for vision in this case," said Maurice Ptito, a professor of visual science at the University of Montreal's School of Optometry, who has scanned the brains of blind people using the machine. "We notice that they activate the visual cortex, which is the part of the brain that a seeing person would use."

Bob Beckman, the president and chief executive of Wicab, said the BrainPort might be on the market by the end of the year, priced at about \$10,000.

Jernigan, 30, who lives with his wife and stepson in McLean, Va., received his BrainPort from Wicab for free as one of more than 100 blind people who have tested the instrument. He communicates with researchers about its benefits and limitations.

"It is designed for stationary tasks," he said. If the camera were to transmit images of a moving scene, there would be "too much information to process at once."

Still, Jernigan uses the BrainPort for everything he can. "When your sink gets clogged up, you got pieces laying down on the floor," he said. "It

helps you find your pieces."

Jernigan recently demonstrated the device at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He sat with the lollipop in his mouth wearing camera-equipped Oakley sunglasses as Gale Pollock, the center's executive director, stuck simple white felt shapes on a black felt screen. After she placed each shape in front of him, she asked, "Mike, what do you see?" After a few seconds, Jernigan answered correctly each time. "Horizontal line," he said. "Circle." "Diagonal line pointing that way," showing the line's direction with his arm.

"This device does not give you your sight," Jernigan said. "There is not that picture in your head."

"When you were a child, did anyone ever draw a picture on your back?" Beckman asked during a phone interview. He said receiving information via the BrainPort is similar to perceiving a shape sketched on your skin by a person's finger.

"It's a first step," said Pollock, a retired Army general. "It's very elementary, but for so many generations the visually impaired and blind have been told, 'I'm sorry, there is nothing that we can do.'"

Nau said the "vision" produced is very rudimentary. "Blocks, shapes—it's black and white," she said. "There is no stereo vision," or depth perception.

Beckman said the company's mission is not to re-create vision but to provide information. "I think we are in the infancy of this technology," he said.

Paul Bach-y-Rita, the late founder of Wicab, discovered in the late 1990s that the tongue was the ideal place to provide information through tactile stimulation, Beckman said. "There is a high level of nerve endings in the tongue, similar to a finger," he said. "And the tongue is constantly moist, so there is constant electric conductivity."

Beckman said a finger would require 10 times more electric stimulation than the tongue does to produce the same results in the visual cortex.

There are no known risks associated with the BrainPort, according to Nau, though some patients have reported a tingling sensation on their tongues after using the device.

Jernigan said the electric stimulation on his tongue is mild. "You ever stick a nine-volt battery on your tongue?" Jernigan asked during a phone interview. "It feels like that, but less. It's not as intense as that."

Jernigan said he uses the controller to tweak the strength of the stimulation. "You can make it more powerful if you'd like," he said.

Jernigan, who is studying government affairs at Georgetown University but will be moving to St. Petersburg next month to attend the University of South Florida, said the BrainPort allows him a better life.

"For five years I have stared at a blank, black screen," he said. "People are thinking outside of the box, and by doing so, it allows someone like me to have the hope of the possibility that I might see again."

Life & Style

First lady fetes designers, stresses arts exposure

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you think your kids spend a little too much time on their laptops, take heart: Michelle Obama has the same problem.

The first lady made the rueful revelation as she feted the nation's top innovators and designers in fields as diverse as architecture, technology, fashion, and communications—winners of the annual National Design awards—at an East Room luncheon Friday.

"What would we do without our laptops?" asked Mrs. Obama, addressing one of the winners, Bill Moggridge, who designed the world's first laptop. "My kids would die," she said to laughter. "They'd be—they wouldn't make it through the summer. I don't know whether to thank you, Bill, for that."

Hosting the design awards, which are presented by the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, has been a recent tradition for first ladies, starting with Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2000.

But Mrs. Obama, who has put a priority since the beginning of her tenure on spending time in the local community, added a twist: Earlier Friday, she sent both award winners and White House staff members to five Washington museums for free public seminars.

At one of them, an eclectic combination of Calvin Klein designer Francisco Costa, interior designers Calvin Tsao and Zack McKown and White House deputy social secretary Ebs Burnough riffed on such subjects as the meaning of design.



AP
First Lady Michelle Obama smiles as she arrives in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, July 24, 2009, to speak during the annual National Design Awards.

One audience member's query was somewhat less philosophical. Nina Hammond asked the panel how she could help her 12-year-old daughter achieve her goal of becoming a fashion designer, since they do not live in New York, the country's fashion capital. She even held up a purple frock designed by the girl, Clarke Smith. "I'm trying to foster her dream," said the mother.

Costa said she'd surely be welcome in New York.

Hammond wanted a little more: "Can I get a name, or a

number?" she asked, to laughter.

Burnough noted that Mrs. Obama had wanted the designers, who spoke at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, to get out during their Washington visit, "so that the community at large had the opportunity to really benefit from their knowledge and their expertise." Seminars at other museums touched on subjects like technology and sustainability, transforming neighborhoods, and interaction design.

Later at the White House, Mrs. Obama addressed guests that included executives from

Google, Target and the Bravo TVnetwork, among many others, lunching on White House china from the Bush, Truman and Eisenhower administrations. She returned to an oft-stated theme: Kids need more than just a good education, they need exposure to the arts—and early.

"An educational foundation is only part of the equation," the first lady said. "In order for creativity to flourish and imagination to take hold, we also need to expose our children to the arts from a very young age."

She said Albert Einstein had

it right when he said imagination is more important than knowledge. "We need to ensure that our children have both—knowledge and imagination. I know I want that for my girls. They deserve to have access to a good education and access to ideas and images that will spark their creativity."

She also spoke of her efforts "to break down barriers that too often exist between major cultural establishments and the people in their immediate communities."

"So we've been sending a lot of role models out there in the far reaches of this city and then inviting kids to come back here to the White House," she said. "That's been a big part of the messages of every single event that we've done here at the White

House. These kids who are living just inches away from power and prestige and fortune and fame, we want those kids to know that they belong here, too ... and in the museums, and in libraries, and laboratories all over this country."

Dressed in a short-sleeved, bright canary yellow suit by Michael Kors, the first lady was also not above making a quip about the nation's obsession with her fashion choices.

"What I love about design is the artistic and scientific complexity that also becomes useful: A laptop, a bridge—an outfit," she said, pausing slightly to stress that last word, and drawing laughter. "A garden," she added. "All drawn from a thousand wells of inspiration and yet grounded in the basic principles of math or science."

Bayreuth opera festival opens under new directors

BAYREUTH, Germany (AP)—The annual Bayreuth opera festival opened under new management on Saturday, with composer Richard Wagner's great-granddaughters in charge for the first time after their father ran the show for more than 50 years.

Half-sisters Katharina Wagner, 31, and Eva Wagner-Pasquier, 64, welcomed luminaries such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel—a regular pilgrim to Bayreuth—and Bavarian Governor Horst Seehofer to the Festspielhaus.

The new directors are offering innovations such as a trimmed-down version of "The Flying Dutchman" for children but, with performers booked years ahead, the main program at this year's 98th edition of the festival focuses on familiar fare.

This year's opening performance was "Tristan and Isolde," staged by Christoph Marthaler, with Robert Dean Smith as Tristan and Irene Theorin as Isolde.

On Aug. 9, a "Tristan" performance will be broadcast live on the Internet and also screened live in a central Bayreuth square—moves championed by Katharina Wagner.

The new team's innovations "constitute promising beginnings of reform, even if the new directors' artistic signature will only be visible in the long term," Culture Minister Bernd Neumann said this week.

"I wish both of them luck and success for the further development of this incomparable cultural event," he said.

The new directors made a fleeting appearance Saturday at a press reception ahead of the first performance, but took no questions.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Katharina Wagner said that "it is a matter of the heart for me to bring opera to the people."

She said she hoped to promote a "better understanding" of the works by offering opera-goers pre-performance talks by experts.

The half-sisters' appointment last September ended a years-long battle in which their 89-year-old father, Wolfgang Wagner, long resisted efforts to dislodge him. He had led the festival since 1951, when he and his brother Wieland revived it following a World War II hiatus.

After Wieland died of cancer in 1966, Wolfgang remained as the festival's sole director. In recent years, feelings grew that the annual event would benefit from an injection of fresh ideas.

Wolfgang finally agreed to step aside after last year's festival; and Katharina and Eva teamed up to beat out a rival bid from their cousin, Nike Wagner.

Alongside "Tristan and Isolde," festival-goers this year also can look forward to Katharina Wagner's own staging of "Die Meistersinger von Nuernberg," now in its third year; Tankred Dorst's "Der Ring des Nibelungen;" and Stefan Herheim's "Parsifal." The festival runs through Aug. 28.

Angel's face uncovered at Istanbul's Hagia Sophia

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Restoration workers have uncovered a well-preserved, long-hidden mosaic face of an angel at the former Byzantine cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, an official said Friday.

The seraphim figure—one of two located on the side of a dome—had been covered up along with the building's other Christian mosaics shortly after Constantinople—the former name for Istanbul—fell to the Ottomans in 1453 and the cathedral was turned into a mosque.

The mosaics were plastered over according to Muslim custom that prohibits the representation of humans.

Some of the mosaics were revealed when the domed complex was turned into a museum in 1935, but the seraphim had largely remained covered, Ahmet Emre Bilgili, who heads culture and tourism affairs in Istanbul, told The Associated Press.

Two Swiss architects saw the



AP
Turkey's Culture Minister Ertugrul Gunay speaks to journalists beside a well-preserved, long-hidden mosaic depicting the face of an angel which was uncovered by restoration workers in the former Byzantine cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, Saturday, July 25, 2009.

two seraphim during restoration work ordered by the Sultan in the mid-19th century but the figures were covered up again, Bilgili said.

"It is the first time that the angel is being revealed," he said, adding that the figure had been

covered with metal and plaster. "It is very well preserved."

Experts would now work to uncover the second seraphim, which was also plastered over and covered by metal, Bilgili said.

The newly uncovered image was hidden behind scaffolding and is not currently visible to visitors.

Hagia Sophia, also called the Church of Holy Wisdom, was built in 537 B.C. and remained a symbol of Byzantine grandeur until Istanbul was conquered by Muslim armies.

The structure was then turned into a mosque—minarets were added and crosses and other Christian symbols were defaced. It became one of the most renowned mosques of the expanding Ottoman Empire.

The site was later converted to a museum under the secular reforms of modern Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

President Barack Obama toured Hagia Sophia when he visited Turkey in April, as did former U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1999. Pope Benedict XVI also strolled the site in 2006 of his pilgrimage of landmarks of Christianity's ancient roots in Turkey.

The art of a recession: Gallery owners struggling

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Art gallery owners across the country are finding they have a tough sell these days.

With houses going up for auction, unemployment continuing to rise and the threat of layoffs seemingly ever-present, many gallery owners in art communities such as Scottsdale, Ariz., Santa Fe, N.M., Portland, Ore., and New York City are closing shop, going broke to stay open or drastically changing the way they do business.

"Art is a very discretionary sort of object, and we are in the worst recession arguably in the postwar era," said Jay Bryson, a global economist with Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, N.C. "Obviously somebody who has lost their job in a factory in Indiana probably is not buying art."

Even people with plenty of discretionary money aren't spending much on it.

"You're a billionaire and you took a 40 percent hit on your portfolio, now you only have \$600 million left," Bryson said. "That's still pretty deep pockets, but 40 percent is 40 percent."

In the gallery district of downtown Scottsdale, at least a half dozen galleries have closed in the past year or are in the midst of closing. Others still are wondering how much longer they can make it.

One recent day, Leslie Levy sat quietly amid the contemporary art she sells in her gallery, which was just as deserted as the streets outside, where the temperature was in the triple digits.

The summers here are always slow because of the heat, but this one is much worse than usual. That's partly why Levy is closing her doors at the end of August after 32 years in business and becoming a private art dealer online.

"I'll tell you what—if I was younger, I'd just keep at it knowing we've not seen times quite as bad as this before," Levy said.

Longtime customer Marylyn Gregory of Bernardville, N.J., came in the gallery that day to see it one last time and check out what pieces Levy had left of her and her husband's favorite artist. Gregory told Levy she was surprised and upset when she heard the gallery was closing but added, "You're probably doing the right thing."

Gregory didn't end up buying anything that day, saying she needed to check with her husband. Before, she might have been more spontaneous.

"Sometimes you'd go to an opening and have a glass of wine, and you're like, OK," she said. "It's certainly the method to get everyone to open their checkbooks."

But like many other art lovers, the Gregorys are more conservative with their money these days.

Levy understands. "People are watching what they spend—cutting back and spending on the necessities of life. That makes sense to people."

Becky Smith knows that all too well. She owned the Bellwether Gallery in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood for a decade, but closed at the end of June after watching her revenue plummet to \$80,000 gross in the first quarter of 2009. She had \$40,000 net, and \$10,000 of it went to rent each month.

The \$80,000 figure was down from about \$350,000 the same quarter in 2008 and about \$600,000 during that period the year before.

"I was really startled," Smith said. "It was the spring of '08 where I saw three shows that should have been blockbusters underperform, and I was in shock."

"Things were booming so intensely a couple years ago and the pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction, it was impossible to know where I stood," she said. "And I didn't want to be paying for a storefront while I was figuring it out."

In the past two years, at least 24 galleries have closed in Manhattan, mostly in Chelsea, according to New York City-based Artnet magazine, which covers the fine art world. "That's really dramatic," said Artnet editor Walter Robinson.

In Santa Fe, N.M., between 10 and 15 galleries have closed this year, said Christy Walker, managing director of the Santa Fe Gallery Association.

"A lot of people have this idea that running a gallery, the owners make a lot of money, when it's just a lot of effort to make a living off of it," she said. "It's a hard business to be in, and when things are good, things are good, and when times are tough, it's a really tough business to maintain."

Kraig Foote of art one gallery in Scottsdale has done everything he can think of to avoid shutting down.

His house is about to go up for auction because he hasn't made a payment in seven months, he has laid off his two employees and he has resorted to selling his own beloved art collection for a fraction of what it's worth.

"I have given up everything," he said recently in the very empty gallery, which sells work by local high school- and college-age artists.

And still, the threat of closure looms.

"I'm trying to make it to December," Foote said. "I think people will start spending again once they get to the next holiday. They'll say, 'We've saved, let's get something.'"

He paused. "I don't know."

Directors, actors geek out with fans at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. said he wish he could don a Mexican wrestling mask and stroll the Comic-Con floor to check out all the collectible toys and geeky-cool stuff. Peter Jackson joked about ducking out of a discussion with director James Cameron—which drew thousands of fans to the San Diego Convention Center's largest meeting hall—to walk the floor with fewer crowds.

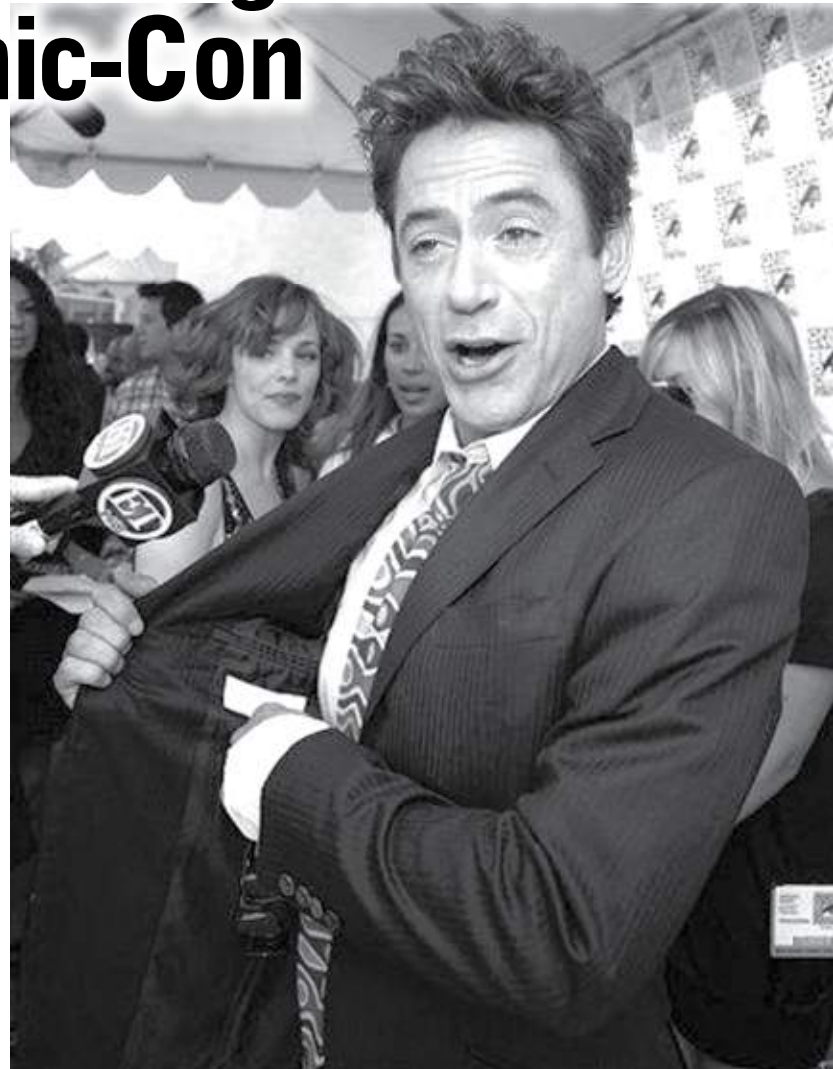
Stars love Comic-Con—and not just because it's a great place to promote their movies. They're moved by the passion of the fans, and it seems to rejuvenate their own passion for working in film.

Fans at the pop-culture convention "not only celebrate fantasy and science fiction and fantastic worlds, but they celebrate each other, and they celebrate their geekness, and there's a sense of solidarity," said Cameron, who premiered footage from his anticipated 3D sci-fi adventure, "Avatar," to conventioners on Thursday. "And what this group does is they make filmmakers do better. Because if you don't live up to their standards, you're not going to get past this. This is the launch pad right here."

The stars of "Twilight"—Taylor Lautner, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart—said fans' overwhelming response at Comic-Con helped make their first film such a success. Kristen Bell, a veteran of five Cons, said, "it's the best place for super-fans."

Director Tim Burton, who showed a piece of his forthcoming "Alice in Wonderland," said he first came to Comic-Con as an aspiring filmmaker in the 1970s.

"I saw a slide show for the first 'Superman.' People were very passionate about it and it kind of scared me," he said. "It's a very pure form of passion that it transcends business and anything else. Passion is a very good thing. And that's why you make movies that you hope people respond to, and so it's good



Actor Robert Downey Jr. poses for photographers while promoting his new film "Sherlock Holmes" at the Comic-Con International 2009 convention held in San Diego Friday, July 24, 2009.

to see and feel that energy here."

Actor Ben Foster, attending his second Comic-Con, also felt the fear.

"It's a zoo. It's a Halloween zoo," he said. "I have no idea how to process this place. It's funny. And then you

have these waves of fear. ... I'm not accustomed to seeing this many people dressed up in samurai outfits and aliens, all in one space."

Comic-Con continues through Sunday.

James Cameron, Peter Jackson talk future of film

SAN DIEGO (AP)—"Titanic." "Lord of the Rings." "Aliens." "King Kong." "The Terminator."

The men behind those movies, James Cameron and Peter Jackson, are among modern film's special-effects kings, advancing technology in computer-generated imagery, motion-capture photography and 3-D.

They met up at Comic Con Friday for an hourlong discussion moderated by Entertainment Weekly about the future of film, sharing details on their latest projects, their high-tech hopes and the undiminished allure of original, character-driven stories.

The two filmmakers say they inspired each other. Cameron said it was the artistic use of "humanoid CG" in Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" films that got him rolling on "Avatar," set for release Dec. 18.

Jackson has said that the technology he used was borne out of Cameron's CGI work on "The Abyss" and "Terminator 2."

Both are thrilled by the possibilities of 3-D and plan to convert their biggest hits, "Titanic" and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, into the format. Then they lamented the shortage of 3-D screens.

"There will be a lot more 3-D screens when they know the 'Lord of the Rings' films are going to be available," Cameron said.

The movie industry needs 3-D, he said, to inspire originality and boost its bottom line. A "3-D ecosystem" could be built on big films converting to the format.

"If 'Lord of the Rings' and 'Titanic' are available in 3-D, that sends a signal all the way back to the consumer electronics manufacturers: Make the screens, make the modified Blue Ray DVD players so you can have it in your home," Cameron said.

That would reinvigorate sagging DVD sales, which would give studios the financial flexibility to take more risks on original and boundary-pushing material.

"The film industry is in this weird state of falling box office, or so the studios feel; DVDs are down, internet piracy, and it's in a fragile state," Jackson said. "It feels like the entire industry is playing a defensive game at the moment."

Both men continue with high-tech pursuits outside of feature films. Jackson is developing a "King Kong" attraction for Universal theme parks that surrounds visitors with 3-D images and effects. Eight projectors will beam images onto giant screens surrounding the park tram, which will be stationed on a surface that shimmies and shakes with action as Kong battles a Tyrannosaurus Rex. The ride is set to open next summer, he said.

Cameron, meanwhile, is developing a company to expand the use of performance-capture technology, 3-D photography and digital projection for sports and music events.

"It could change the way we absorb music," he said.

But their first love is film, even without all the technical trappings.

The medium is "infinitely superior to any other" because of its emotional core, not its fancy dressing, Jackson said.

"The whole thing about the future of movies and technology is, to me, it's just a

huge red herring, because movies are all about story and character," Jackson said. "They always have been and that's all that they're ever going to be about."

Comic Con continues through Sunday at the San Diego Convention Center.



In this undated photo provided by 20th Century Fox, "Avatar" director James Cameron is shown on the set of the film.

Spike Lee defends free speech on Venezuela visit

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Filmmaker Spike Lee championed a free press Friday during a visit to Venezuela, where broadcasters are under pressure to avoid criticizing President Hugo Chavez's leftist government.

The director didn't directly refer to the dispute in Venezuela, but he said there are "no circumstances" under which news media should be silenced.

Visiting to screen his 1989 film "Do The Right Thing" and met with fans to discuss race relations, his career and the late Michael Jackson, Lee said he is "a firm believer in freedom of speech."

"It's my opinion that there are no circumstances where the media should be shut down," he said to loud applause. "I'm not talking about any country specifically, but globally."

Chavez has increasingly clashed with Venezuela's private media, endorsing plans to revoke the licenses of 240 radio stations after officials said they didn't update their registrations. Regulators also have begun a series of investigations into Globovision—the only strongly anti-Chavez TV channel on the open airwaves—that could lead to its closure.

Lee has never been one to sidestep controversy. Many of his films make bold statements about race relations in the United States, and 20 years after the

release of "Do The Right Thing," a film about a race riot in Brooklyn, the message still rings strong.

"The United States has made great leaps in race relations—the biggest one being the election of President Barack Obama," Lee said.

But there is still a way to go, he added, citing shootings by New York City police officers involving blacks, including the May death of a black un-

dercover cop killed by a white officer.

Lee said he has struggled in his own career as a black film producer, director and actor, but added he is grateful that from an early age his parents impressed on him the need to face challenges.

"It was drummed into my brain that in order to be successful in America you had to be ten times better than white folks," he said.

Lee also reminisced about making

the music video "They Don't Care About Us" with Michael Jackson in Brazil. In the video, the "King of Pop" performs in a Rio de Janeiro shantytown as the Brazilian group Olodum beats drums in the background.

Street vendors in Venezuela's capital have been playing the video regularly since Jackson's death June 25.

"I'm one of the billions of people who miss him dearly," Lee said.



U.S. filmmaker Spike Lee, looks at the camera as he arrives at the Bellas Artes museum in Caracas, Friday, July 24, 2009. Lee is in Venezuela to give a seminar to young film students.

By ERRIN HAINES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Author E. Lynn Harris dies at age 54

Long before the secret world of closeted black gay men came to light in America, bestselling author E. Lynn Harris introduced a generation of black women to the phenomenon known as the "down low."

Harris endeared such characters to readers who were otherwise unfamiliar with them, using themes and backdrops familiar to urban professionals, conditioned by their upbringings, their church leaders or their friends to condemn and criticize homosexuality in the African-American community. A proud Razorback cheerleader at the University of Arkansas who struggled with his own sexuality before becoming a pioneer of gay black fiction, Harris died Thursday at age 54 while promoting his latest book in Los Angeles.

Publicist Laura Gilmore said Harris died Thursday night after being stricken at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, and a cause of death had not been determined. She said Harris, who lived in Atlanta, fell ill on a train to Los Angeles a few days ago and blacked out for a few minutes, but seemed fine after that.

An improbable and inspirational success story, Harris worked for a decade as an

IBM executive before taking up writing, selling the novel "Invisible Life" from his car as he visited salons and beauty parlors around Atlanta. He had unprecedented success for an openly gay black author and his strength as a romance writer led some to call him the "male Terry McMillan."

In 15 years, Harris became the genre's most successful author, penning 11 titles, ten of them New York Times bestsellers. More than four million of his books are in print.

McMillan had just spoken to Harris about a week ago, to tell him she would pay tribute to him in her upcoming book by having a character read one of his titles, "And This Too Shall Pass."

"He was thrilled," McMillan said. "I loved his spirit and generosity. I loved that he found his own niche in the world of fiction, and I'm grateful to have known him. This just breaks my heart."

He went on to mainstream success with works such as the novel "Love of My Own" and the memoir "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted."

Harris' storytelling fell into several categories, including gay and lesbian fiction, African American fiction and urban fic-



In this July 7, 2008 file photo, author E. Lynn Harris poses in the living room of his home in Atlanta.

tion. But he found success in showing readers a new side of African American life: the secret world of professional, bisexual black men living as heterosexuals.

His readers, many of them young black, professional women of dating age, were fascinated and shocked to learn that the men in their lives could be attracted to other men. Harris' vivid storytelling—at least somewhat grounded in his reality and of others whom he knew—pulled back the curtain for some and held up the mirror for others.

"He was a pioneering voice

within the black LGBT community, but also resonated with mainstream communities, regardless of race and sexual orientation," said Herndon Davis, a gay advocate and a diversity media consultant in Los Angeles. "Harris painted with eloquent prose and revealing accuracy the lives of African American men and the many complicated struggles they faced reconciling their sexuality and spirituality while rising above societal taboos within the black community."

For years, he was alone in exposing the "down low," but the phenomenon exploded into

mainstream culture in 2004, a decade after "Invisible Life." That year, J.L. King's "On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep With Men" hit bookstores and the author appeared on Oprah Winfrey's TV show.

Harris' 1994 debut, "Invisible Life," was a coming-of-age story that dealt with the then-taboo topic.

"If you were African American and you were gay, you kept your mouth shut and you went on and did what everybody else did," Harris said in an interview last year. "You had girlfriends, you lived a life that your parents had dreamed for you."

Harris was born in Flint, Mich., in 1955 and raised in Little Rock, Ark. He attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he was the school's first black yearbook editor, the first black male Razorbacks cheerleader and president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He graduated with honors with a degree in journalism.

Harris worked in corporate America for 13 years at IBM, Hewlett-Packard and AT&T before quitting a career in sales to become an author. He was not living as an openly gay man

when "Invisible Life" was published, and could not acknowledge the parallels between himself and the book.

"People would often ask, 'Is this book about you?' I didn't want to talk about that," he said. "I wasn't comfortable talking about it. I would say that this is a work of fiction."

Harris said that the courage readers got from the book empowered him to be honest about himself. He continued to tell stories dealing with similar issues, to tell black middle class readers about people they knew, but who were living secret lives.

Tilia Parks read "Invisible Life" as a 16-year-old and was moved by the struggle of someone so close to her own age.

"I loved the truthfulness of it," said Parks, now 26, of Atlanta. "I'd never heard that point of view, of a guy finding himself and his sexuality at such a young age."

Parks had looked forward to the next plot twist for the book's main character, Raymond Tyler, who reappeared in subsequent titles has not been in Harris' more recent works. With Harris' death, Parks is saddened that his story may be gone.

"Loyal readers were looking for that," Parks said. "I'm so sad. I was waiting for him to come back around and start talking about Raymond."

Jackson advisor says he turned over \$5.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former financial advisor to Michael Jackson said Friday that he was the person who recently turned over to executors \$5.5 million, which had been “a secret between Michael and me.”

Dr. Tohme Tohme responded to an inquiry from The Associated Press about documents in which administrators of the estate said they had recovered \$5.5 million and substantial amounts of personal property from an unnamed former financial adviser.

“It was not recovered,” he said. “I had the money and I gave it to them. It was a secret between Michael and me.”

He said the money, which came from recording residuals, was earmarked by Jackson for the purchase of what was to be his “dream home” in Las Vegas. He said he was in negotiations for the home when Jackson died.

“He said, ‘Don’t tell anyone about this money,’” Tohme recalled. “But when he passed away I told them I had this money, and I gave it to them.”

He said he also turned over a large number of items from Jackson’s Neverland estate that were once scheduled to be auctioned. When Jackson decided to call off the auction, Tohme said he had everything put into storage. He said he turned over that personal property to the executors as well.

Tohme is the financier who advised Jackson during the last year and half of his life and was instrumental in saving Neverland from foreclosure. He also was a

key figure in negotiating the contracts for Jackson to do a series of comeback concerts in London.

The estate’s receipt of the money was revealed in court documents released Friday.

Attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain are serving as temporary administrators as spelled out in the King of Pop’s will. The men are finishing several deals that they expect will generate “tens of millions of dollars of revenues.”

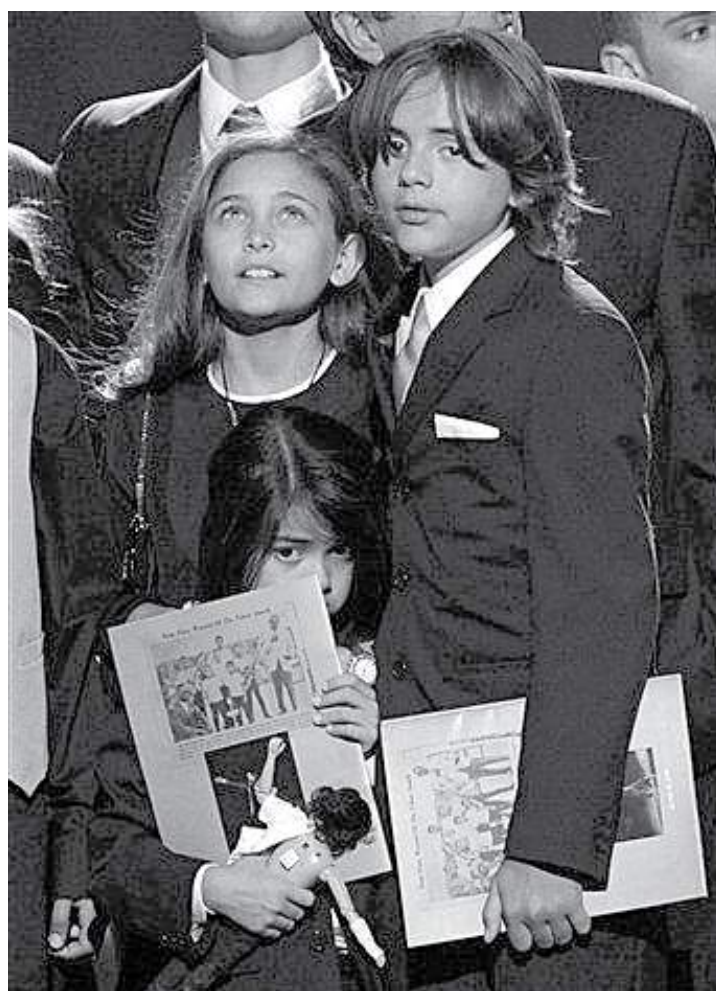
They expect to submit those deals for court approval within the next week, the filings state.

The revelations were included in two motions requesting allowances for Jackson’s three children and his mother, Katherine. The petitions state that Jackson was the primary source of income for his children and his mother, who receives some money from Social Security.

Katherine Jackson currently has custody of the three children, 12-year-old Michael Joseph Jr., known as Prince Michael; 11-year-old Paris Michael Katherine Jackson; and 7-year-old Prince Michael II, known as Blanket. The children and Jackson’s mother are the only members of Jackson’s family eligible to receive support from the estate, according to the court filings.

The monthly stipends that Branca and McClain hope to provide the Jacksons were redacted from the court records released Friday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff refused to grant the allowances on Thurs-



In this July 7, 2009 file photo, Paris Jackson, left, Prince Michael Jackson and Prince Michael Jackson II appear on stage during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

day, opting instead to consider them at a hearing on Aug. 3. The judge did allow the administrators to enter into deals that will bring reprints of Michael Jackson’s 1988 autobiography, “Moonwalk” back to booksellers.

Branca and McClain “believe that the projected cash flow and the assets of the estate are more than sufficient to cover the payment of this amount as a family allowance for the benefit of the minor children.”

Mom fears burning bridges in day care exit interview

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have decided to take our son out of the day care where he has been for the past six months. It’s a small center, run by a woman, “Joni,” who serves as director and lead teacher. She started the service two years ago and manages a staff of about 12.

Joni is the reason we are leaving. She seems incredibly stressed out all the time. She is curt with us when we talk and has been too harried to discuss our concerns over our boy’s care. She appears to be more preoccupied with finances than the quality of care she is providing. One of our favorite teachers just quit, and she confided that it was because of the difficulty she had working with Joni.

Because we told Joni we are going, she has requested an “exit interview” to discuss what didn’t work for us. I am hesitant about it. If we let her know the impact her stress is having on the quality of service she provides, she might be able to hire an administrator and make improvements. On the other hand, she may take offense.

Our community is small, so we will see her around, and because there are few child care centers, we may need to go back to this one someday. Should we be frank with her or let it go?



Dear Abby

MIDWEST MOM

DEAR MIDWEST MOM: Have the meeting with her. Be kind, calm and nonconfrontational, and do not tell her how to run her business. Explain that you are seeking other options for your son because she has been preoccupied and seems not to have enough time to address your parental concerns. Say you understand how complicated it is running a business even in the best of times, but as much as you like her, your first responsibility must be to your child. Period.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman in my 60s who lives alone. One of my greatest fears is developing dementia. Because there is no one living with me, there would be no one around to notice changes in my behavior.

I am still able to balance my checkbook, do my grocery shopping, drive myself to the dentist’s office, etc. If I ever need assisted living, how would I recognize the fact so I could make other arrangements before requiring someone else to make them for me?

GROWING OLDER IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR GROWING OLDER: Most single women have friends with whom they interact on a regular basis. If you didn’t recognize the signs that you were slipping, one or more of your friends probably would.

With our population living longer, concerns about age-related dementia are growing. Because this is one of your concerns, discuss it with your physician and request to be evaluated for signs of dementia during your annual physicals.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college student with a gender-neutral name. I often need to exchange e-mails with people who have never met me, and I am frequently assumed to be male when I am, in fact, female.

Is there a polite way to correct this in my return e-mails? Or should I not let people know they have made a mistake until they meet me in person?

Z.W., CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEAR Z.W.: A sure way to let people know they have made an incorrect assumption would be to sign your return e-mail “Ms. Z.W.”

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Furtado finds fresh inspiration for ‘Mi Plan’

MIAMI (AP)—Nelly Furtado admits that writing her new, all-Spanish album, “Mi Plan,” wasn’t in her plans at all after finishing a hectic tour to promote her last chart-topping record.

“I was physically tired and I wasn’t feeling inspired. It was almost as if I lost my pop inspiration to write in English,” Furtado said. “I just needed a new outlet, and I found it by writing in Spanish.”

The 30-year-old singer told The Associated Press at a Miami recording studio that her fourth full-length album, which is set for release Sept. 15 on her own Nelstar Music label, more intimately explores the passion that fuels relationships



In this Oct. 13, 2008 file photo, Singer Nelly Furtado arrives at the premiere of “Max Payne” in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

“I think this album has some of my first true love songs ever. They’re not complicated. They’re not over-intellectualized, and I found it liberating to be able to sing in the Latin language and to express myself from my Latin soul,” said Furtado, the Canadian-born daughter of Portuguese immigrants.

The Grammy-Award winner, who vaulted up the pop charts with such indelible tracks as “I’m Like a Bird” in 2000 and “Promiscuous” in 2006, is set to deliver a new fleet of mostly up-tempo, melodic tunes on “Mi Plan.”

“Manos Al Aire” and “Mas” have already hit the airwaves, and two more songs are expected to be available on iTunes in the

coming weeks leading up to the album’s release.

The 11 songs on the album include collaborations with Mexican singers Alejandro Fernandez and Julieta Venegas, Spanish singer Concha Buika, Latin hip-hop singer La Mala Rodriguez and Dominican singer Juan Luis Guerra.

And classical singer Josh Groban’s cameo on “Silencio” was a “huge blessing,” Furtado said.

“I thought it was important to sort of showcase on this album an artist that people know more for their English recordings,” she said. “So, I thought by working with Josh would actually elevate my point that language isn’t a barrier when it comes to music.”

Billy Joel ill, postpones 2nd upstate NY show



ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Billy Joel and Elton John have postponed a second upstate New York concert on their top-grossing tour after Joel fell ill with flu-like symptoms.

The Times Union Center in Albany says in a release the pair have decided to delay Monday’s show. The venue says Joel’s doctors advised him not to perform

for 72 hours because of his “extreme fatigue.”

Promoters said Friday’s show at Buffalo’s HSBC Arena was postponed after the 60-year-old Joel came down with flu-like symptoms.

A representative for Sony Music Entertainment hasn’t returned a telephone call seeking comment. Joel is on Sony’s Columbia label.

Both venues are working to reschedule the shows.

The Elton/Joel Face 2 Face tour has been the nation’s top-grossing concert tour for the last two months.

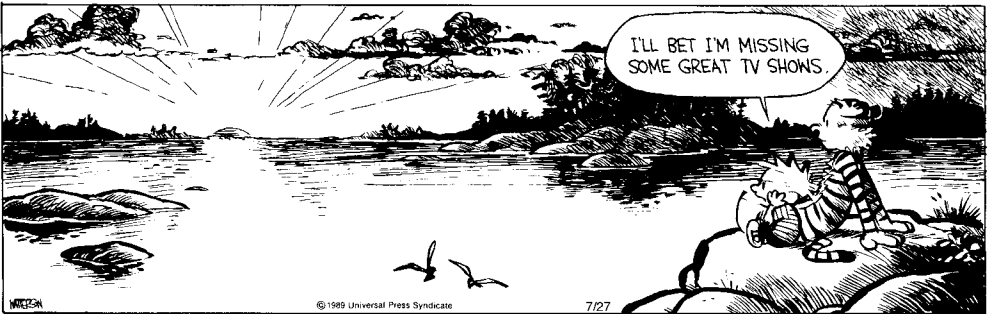
In this Saturday, July 18, 2009 picture, Elton John, left, and Billy Joel bow to the crowd at the beginning of their concert at Foxborough Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

AP

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



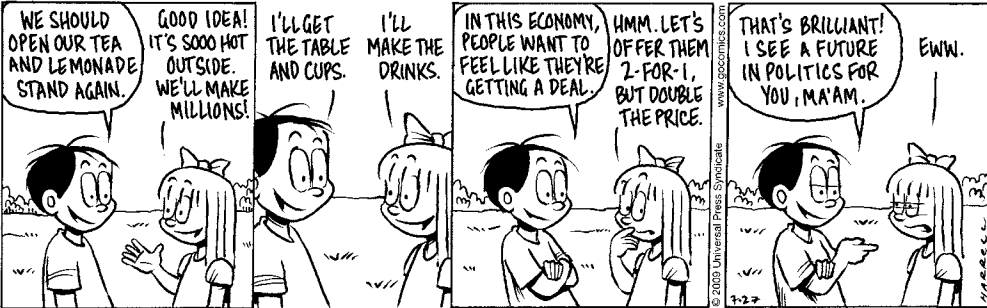
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Graceful bird

5 Crafty

8 Being (Latin)

12 Honolulu's home

13 Nay

14 Author Bellow

15 United nations

16 Certain lenses

18 First U.S. space station

20 Chopping spree?

21 Cupid's alias

23 Scepter

24 Manicurist's concerns

28 Had on

31 Simile center

32 Ravi

34 Charged particle

35 Dull sound of impact

37 Office work areas

39 —

41 Mexican money

42 Head-ache aid

45 "The Colbert —"

49 Hand-cuffs

51 Entreaty

52 Tarzan's clique

53 Eggs

54 Verve

55 Protuberance

56 Kitten's comment

57 St. Louis team

DOWN

1 Weeps loudly

2 Stroll

3 "Hi, sailor!"

4 Cell

5 Representative

6 Cancer, —, Virgo

7 Tug

8 Money set aside

9 Dressing ingredient

10 Fat

11 Otherwise

17 Rowing need

19 Curved lines

22 Arrangement

24 Garfield or Heathcliff

25 Show to a seat, slangily

26 Got rid of slack

27 Workshop cutter

29 Caviar base

30 Em halves

33 Obey reveille

36 Lower in status

38 Kettle material

40 Varnish ingredient

42 "— Old Cow-hand"

43 Mafia boss

44 Grab (onto)

46 Earthenware pot

47 500 sheets of paper

48 Catches some rays

50 Previous night

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 7-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pete Yorn, 35; Maureen McGovern, 60; Peggy Fleming, 61; Bobbie Gentry, 65

Happy Birthday: You have some wonderful ideas but, if all you do is talk about them, you will never get things off the ground. You have to be willing to do the work yourself. If you can stay on track and follow through with your plans the rewards will be much better than even you imagined. This is a year for progressive action, advancement and feeling proud. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 24, 35, 37, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let a personal problem dictate what you can accomplish. You may have to give a little more time to home, money and relationships but, with the right attitude, you should be able to take care of business. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You don't have to go it alone today. Partner up with someone who can complement your attributes and you will have a winning combination. Put your energy into developing your own ideas and projects. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You only have to make a couple of adjustments to come out on top. Your good fortune coupled with the support you are given will lead to a winning combination. Don't let someone's jealousy trip you up or cause you to fall short. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you don't get what's going on, ask questions. You can't possibly fix what's wrong if you don't understand the situation. Emotional problems

brought on by an older relative or someone wanting to meddle in your affairs must be stifled. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll take the people who know you best off guard with your serious, no-nonsense attitude. Just because you are willing to go the distance and do your best doesn't mean you should let others take advantage of your industrious attitude. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Attentive and helpful gestures will win you benefits. Someone you meet will offer something worth checking into. Develop a partnership that allows you to accomplish far more than you can by yourself. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Determination and practicality will be what counts. You owe it to yourself to take care of your own business. Think big and a moneymaking opportunity will develop. A change will give you the boost you need. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Size down and be less indulgent if you want to get ahead. You have to budget your time and money in order to get your ideas and plans moving in a positive direction. Face your competition head on and don't back down. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Communicate, ask questions and go to the source in order to find out all you need to know to get your plans underway. If you jump from one thing to another, you will fall short of your expectations. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your focus should be on professional and finan-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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cial gains. Put an end to any messy, personal issues. Productivity is what counts and anyone trying to stop you can expect a negative response. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be fortunate, no matter what you do and good things will come from an unexpected source. A friend will be there to back you if you need help and encourage you to follow through with your plans. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A financial proposal will be exactly what you need to pursue something you've always wanted to do. An encounter with someone who can complement your plans and your personal life will develop through unusual circumstances. ***

Birthday Baby: You are engaging and charming and know exactly how to get your way. You are a dreamer and a good provider. You have a good influence on the people you befriend and the ones you love.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4		1	9		5			
5			4	8	6				7
		1				4			
1	6				7		9	3	
	8						4		
3	7		2				1	6	
		6				3			
4			5	2	3				1
	5		6	8			2		

Difficulty Level ★

7/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	2	9	7	3	6	8	1
3	6	9	8	4	1	5	2	7
8	1	7	2	6	5	3	4	9
6	9	1	5	3	2	4	7	8
7	8	5	1	9	4	2	3	6
4	2	3	7	8	6	1	9	5
1	3	8	4	5	7	9	6	2
2	7	6	3	1	9	8	5	4
9	5	4	6	2	8	7	1	3

Difficulty Level ****

7/25

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SELF-REFLECTION

Solution: 9 letters

B	S	E	X	A	S	N	O	I	S	I	C	E	D	S
E	O	K	M	I	N	R	E	A	S	O	N	I	N	G
S	U	S	S	E	N	I	P	P	A	H	F	S	N	N
T	L	L	S	A	I	B	E	R	T	F	S	O	O	I
N	E	L	A	M	M	F	O	A	E	E	R	S	I	L
O	E	T	A	V	I	R	P	R	N	T	S	S	N	E
I	T	O	O	L	R	U	E	S	S	E	N	B	I	E
T	E	S	T	I	E	N	U	T	N	R	S	E	P	F
A	V	H	M	K	C	O	H	G	E	S	E	H	O	I
T	I	U	A	E	I	G	N	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y
I	T	M	S	C	U	I	T	S	L	I	V	W	S	
D	I	A	S	O	L	A	N	E	P	F	S	I	O	L
E	S	N	H	L	P	I	N	N	E	R	E	O	M	A
M	O	T	I	V	A	T	I	O	N	G	D	R	E	O
C	P	W	E	I	G	H	T	H	I	N	K	I	N	G

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Behavior, Best, Bias, Consciousness, Decisions, Desires, Differences, Feelings, Goals, Happiness, Honest, Hope, Human, Inner, Life, Makeup, Male, Mask, Meditation, Mirror, Motivation, Opinion, Path, Patterns, Positive, Private, Reasoning, Self, Soul, Strong, Test, Therapy, Thinking, Thoughts, Tool, Value, Weight, Willingness, Women

Last Saturday's Answer: Carnival

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Contador set to win Tour—and Astana battle



MONT VENTOUX, France

(AP)—Alberto Contador is basking in double satisfaction: the Tour de France victory is an easy ride away, and he's pulled it off in spite of his

Alberto Contador of Spain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, reacts as he crosses the finish during the 20th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 167 kilometers (103.8 miles) with start in Montelimar and finish on Mont Ventoux pass, southern France, Saturday July 25, 2009.

AP



own team—and Lance Armstrong.

The 26-year-old Spaniard all but secured a second victory in cycling's main event on Saturday, by fending off challengers in the race climax on one of France's toughest climbs: Mont Ventoux.

Armstrong, the seven-time champion, will be on podium for an eighth time, but he's third—not on the step he had aimed for.

When he sees Contador in the yellow jersey on the Champs-Élysées, Armstrong—after not-so-subtle verbal jabs against the Spaniard during the three-week race—could very well be green.

In the heat of the race, Contador had sought to play down the differences in their Kazakh Astana team, dodging or downplaying questions about “tension” that Armstrong evoked.

With victory nearly certain, the Spaniard opened up a bit.

“My conscience is very clear because in the end I have run two races, one on the bike and one at the team hotel,” he said on Spanish broadcaster TVE after Saturday's ride.

Contador knew his task at the Tour would be tricky when the Texan announced last year he was coming back from retirement to join his old mentor, Johan Bruyneel, at the Astana team. The Belgian strategist had been train-

ing Contador as his new cycling star.

Once the Tour was on, and Armstrong's barbs flew, Contador counted the days and tried to focus on his racing—not on the Texan and tensions at the team dinner table.

“Every day, I told myself: ‘One day

dor refused to answer whether he had ever used prohibited substances.

But he welcomes stepped-up anti-doping controls.

“I am subjected to (anti-doping) controls 365 days a year,” he said. “And I do it with goodwill, because I think it's

minutes, 21 seconds, holding off fellow breakaway rider Tony Martin of Germany by 3 seconds.

Andy Schleck, who retained second overall, crossed third, 38 seconds back—in the same time as Contador. Armstrong was fifth, 41 seconds behind Garate, and Frank Schleck was sixth, 43 seconds back.

Armstrong succeeded in holding off the two challengers nipping at his heels for third: Bradley Wiggins of Britain began the stage 15 seconds behind the Texan, and Frank Schleck of Luxembourg trailed him by 38.

“It was kind of simple, following Wiggins and following Frank Schleck,” Armstrong said. “And I had the legs for that.”

Contador had a comfortable margin over Andy Schleck. The 24-year-old rider from Luxembourg led at least a half-dozen attacks on the way up to the peak of the moonscape-like mountain.

Overall, Contador leads Andy Schleck by 4:11, and Armstrong is 5:24 behind. Bradley Wiggins is fourth, 6:01 back, and Frank Schleck is fifth—6:04 behind the Spaniard.

Armstrong said that even when he was dominant, from 1999 to 2005, he might've had trouble beating Contador. And the Spaniard is reveling that Armstrong will be looking up to him on the podium.

“It's a pity to part now,” Contador said. “But maybe we will meet again sometime in the future.”

Dufner leads soggy Canadian Open

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Jason Dufner flirted with a 59, then settled for a 9-under 63. Mark Calcavecchia made a PGA Tour-record nine straight birdies. And there were two more aces in perfect scoring conditions Saturday at the Canadian Open.

The fun didn't last long, giving way to 1.8 inches of rain on the already-saturated Glen Abbey course. Soon after Dufner finished the second round in light showers, the heavy rain forced tour officials to postpone the third round until Sunday morning.

Four inches of rain have fallen since the event began Thursday.

“If you had a sponge underneath the faucet, the water just starts running off. That's the case we have right now,” PGA Tour tournament director Steve Carman said. “Surface water is just running off. So we're anticipating the golf course will be very similar to where it was this morning, still saturated.”

In an attempt to get 36 holes in on Sunday, the tour cut to the low 60 and ties instead of the usual low 70 and ties, leaving 64 players in the tournament. The players will go off in threesomes and won't be regrouped for the fourth round.

Dufner eagled the par-5 13th to reach 9 under for the round, but played the final five holes in even par—birdieing the par-5 16th, dropping a stroke on the par-4 17th and saving par on the par-5 18th after hitting into the water.

“I played very well, hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens. Made a couple more putts,” Dufner said. “It started raining at the end, conditions got a little tougher, but 63 is a pretty good score, and leading after two rounds is always great.”

At 13 under, Dufner had a one-stroke advantage over Jerry Kelly (67) and 2001 winner Scott Verplank (67). Nathan Green (65), Peter Tomasulo (68), Martin Laird (69), Pat Perez (67), Bob Estes (67), Retief Goosen (69) and first-round co-leaders Camilo Villegas (71) and Kevin Na (71) were 10 under.

“If you've been out here long enough, you're used to this,” Verplank said. “There's no reason to get all worked up about it because there's nothing you can do about it. I think everybody wants to play 72 holes and get a good tournament in. This is a big tournament for me, so we'd just like to do it the right way and, if we have to stay here a little longer to get it done

the right way, then so be it.”

Calcavecchia opened the delayed second round with two pars, then reeled off nine straight birdies. His nine birdie putts were from 15 feet or closer. With 15-year-old son Eric working as his caddie, Calcavecchia shot a 65 to reach 8 under.

“It's just fly it right to the stick,” Calcavecchia said. “You give the guys out here no wind and greens that are plugging, you're going to see a lot of low scores.”

Calcavecchia broke the record set by Bob Goalby in his 1961 St. Petersburg Open victory and matched by Fuzzy Zoeller (1976 Quad Cities Open), Dewey Arnette (1987 Buick Open), Edward Fryatt (2000 Doral-Ryder Open), J.P. Hayes (2002 Bob Hope Classic) and Kelly (2003 Las Vegas Invitational).

The streak ended on the par-4 third when the 49-year-old player's chip from over the green went 5 feet past. He saved par to remain 10 under, but dropped a stroke on the par-3 fourth after hitting into a greenside bunker, and bogeyed No. 8.

“I think adrenaline kicked in a little bit, even more than it already was,” said Calcavecchia, the 2005 winner at Shaughnessey in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Leif Olson and Casey Wittenberg had holes-in-one on the par-3 15th, the fourth aces of the round on the 132-yard hole—and the only ones on the hole in 25 Canadian Opens at the course. Olson's ball caromed off playing partner Kris Blanks' ball. All four players won 2009 BMW Z4 Roadsters.

There have been six aces overall, the most since the tour began keeping extensive records in 1971. There were five in the 2004 John Deere Classic.

Canadians Mike Weir (66) and Stephen Ames (69) were 7 under. Pat Fletcher was the last Canadian winner, taking the 1954 event at Point Grey in Vancouver.

Weir was back on the course for the first time since opening with a 71 on Thursday in a round delayed 7 1/2 hours because of rain.

“This has been such a crazy week,” Weir said. “At least today, I was able to play 18 holes and actually get in some kind of a rhythm.”

Former Southern California player Jamie Lovemark, making his pro debut, followed an opening 74 with a 66 to finish at 4 under.



less,” he said at a news conference after Saturday's stage. “Now, it's all settled. Everything is better and the situation is back to normal.”

Armstrong and Bruyneel are very close. Contador was asked whether he thought that the team manager would have rather seen the Texan win.

“That's a good question,” the Spaniard said.

“The preparations for the Tour were complicated. There were a lot of elements stacked against me, but instead of being worried, I took it all as an added motivator,” he said. “I think I succeeded.”

While much has been made of Armstrong's comeback, Contador had one too: He was unable to defend his 2007 title because Astana was not invited last year over a doping scandal before he joined.

With Armstrong set to lead a new Radio Shack team next year, and Bruyneel still coy about his own future, Contador's plans are still uncertain. But he knows he won't team with Armstrong again.

“He wanted to win. I wanted to win. That doesn't make for a necessarily compatible situation,” Contador said. “He will be surely a formidable adversary next year.”

With doping scandals tarnishing the Tour in recent years, suspicions linger about whether riders are clean. Conta-

good for cycling, for the sport I love.”

Sunday's final stage will be a largely ceremonial ride to Paris, and breakaway attempts among the leaders are taboo. The upshot is that an accident can prevent Contador from winning.

Armstrong held off a number of attacks from his closest challengers to virtually assure himself of finishing on the podium in his first Tour since 2005.

With brush fires blazing near the course route, fire trucks roared in the opposite direction of the pack on the Abeille pass, a mid-level climb late in the stage. Five spray planes doused the flames from overhead. Race officials say the riders weren't in danger.

Huge crowds lined the climb up to the bald peak of Mont Ventoux, one of the most celebrated—and dreaded—cycling climbs in France.

“Hell, it seems like half of America showed up and all of France. It was so packed and when you have a lot of people it blocks a lot of the wind,” Armstrong said.

Juan Manuel Garate of Spain won Saturday's 103.8-mile Stage 20 from Montelimar to Mont Ventoux, featuring a 13.1-mile ride up the very steep final ascent.

Garate, who entered the stage more than 1 1/2 hours behind Contador in the overall standings, clocked 4 hours, 39

Henderson & Rice together forever in Hall of Fame



COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Rickey Henderson knew what was expected every time he batted. So, too, did Jim Rice.

"Some way, I was going to scratch to get on base to steal that base," Henderson said. "I steal that base, my day was good. My pride and joy was coming across the plate."

Said Rice: "Believe me, I wasn't paid to walk. I was paid to try to do some damage."

Each player—Henderson, the quintessential leadoff man with an infectious smile, and Rice, the consummate power hitter with an icy glare—inflicted more than his share of damage on opponents, and they will be duly recognized for their considerable career accomplishments Sunday when they are inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The pair will be the first inductees to primarily play left field since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski went into the Hall in 1989.

Former Yankees and Indians second baseman Joe Gordon, elected posthumously by the Veterans Committee, also will be inducted, while former Yankees star and longtime broadcaster Tony Kubek and writer Nick Peters will be honored as winners of the Frick and Spink awards, respectively.

"As a kid, you grow up playing the game, and you never really know what you can achieve," Henderson said.

A member of nine teams during his 25-year career, the fun-loving Henderson achieved more than most. He holds the all-time records for stolen bases in a season (130) and career (1,406), for runs scored (2,295) and for leading off a game with a home run (81).

"Competing against myself—I think that's what made me the player that I



Rickey Henderson, left, and Jim Rice pose after a news conference in Cooperstown, N.Y., Saturday, July 25, 2009. The former Major League Baseball players will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday.

became," Henderson said. "I had a lot of desire to be a winner and play the game to the fullest."

Born in Chicago on Christmas Day 1958, Henderson moved with his family to California when he

was 7 and became a three-sport star at Oakland Technical High School. Football was his forte and he received numerous scholarship offers to play college ball, turning them down for a shot at baseball.

Henderson was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the fourth round in 1976. After excelling in the minors for three seasons (at Modesto, in 1977, he led the California League with a then-record 95 steals and became just the fourth professional player to steal seven bases in one game), Henderson made his major league debut with Oakland in late June 1979. He still led the club that season with 33 steals.

When Oakland owner Charlie Finley hired Billy Martin as manager in 1980, Henderson had the perfect partner in crime. "Billyball"—the aggressive attack Martin relished—helped catapult Henderson to stardom.

The speedy Henderson set the American League season steals record with 100 in only his second year, joining Maury Wills and Lou Brock as the only major league players of the modern era to steal 100 or more bases a season.

"I went out there and put it together, but it wasn't just me," said Henderson, who eclipsed the AL record of 96 set by Ty Cobb in 1915. "Billy helped teach me how to win. He had a strategy and we worked together and achieved that. There was no doubt I was gone when you told me to go."

Henderson quickly evolved into perhaps the most dangerous player in baseball, seemingly always able to make something from nothing. After leading the AL in hits during the strike-shortened 1981 season, the "Man of Steel" used his trademark headfirst slides to break Brock's single-season steals record with 130 in 1982.

After the 1984 season, Henderson

was traded to the New York Yankees and soon was reunited with Martin after Yogi Berra was fired as manager.

Henderson hit 24 homers and batted .314 with a league-leading 80 stolen bases in 1985, and his 146 runs scored were the most since Ted Williams had 150 in 1949.

Hitting homers was second nature to Rice, who played his entire career for the Boston Red Sox. Playing at a time when offensive numbers paled in comparison to the past two decades, the so-called steroid era, Rice batted .298 with 382 home runs and 1,451 RBIs from 1974-89. He was voted to eight All-Star teams and finished in the top five in AL MVP voting six times, winning the award in 1978 when he batted .315 with 213 hits, 46 home runs, 139 RBIs and a .600 slugging percentage.

The numbers get even more impressive.

Rice drove in 100 or more runs eight times, batted over .300 seven times, and topped 200 hits four times. And he's the only player in major league history with at least 35 homers and 200 hits in three consecutive seasons (1977-79).

That it took until his final year of eligibility probably rankled every time a new class was announced. If there ever was any bitterness, though, it has long since vanished.

"You let bygones be bygones," the 56-year-old Rice said. "Yeah, I wish I could have gone in on the first ballot or the second, not the last. But I'm in and some guys are still out. You cherish what you have. You cherish that you're in an elite category of guys that played the game one way—hard."

"There are a lot of guys that I started with my first year in rookie ball—about 60 guys—and only one made it to the big leagues."

Record comeback lifts Rays over Blue Jays in 12



TORONTO (AP)—Jason Bartlett's RBI double in the 12th inning capped the biggest comeback in Tampa Bay history as the Rays erased an eight-run deficit to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 10-9 in the American League on Saturday.

Down 8-0 after four, Tampa Bay cut it to 9-7 heading into the ninth against closer Scott Downs. The defending AL champions tied it on solo homers by Carlos Pena and Willy Aybar. Pena went 2 for 6 with four RBIs.

It's the first time in their 12-year history that the Rays have overcome an eight-run deficit. It matched the largest lead the Blue Jays have squandered, done three times previously.

Toronto loaded the bases with one out in the 12th but Joe Nelson struck out Aaron Hill looking and got Adam Lind on a grounder.

Hill hit two home runs for Toronto, while Alex Rios and Jose Bautista also went deep.

Athletics 6, Yankees 4

At New York, Gio Gonzalez struck out six in a career-high 6 2-3 innings and Oakland scored all of its runs in the seventh inning to end New York's eight-game winning streak.

Landon Powell and Orlando Cabrera each drove in a pair of runs for the A's, who also ended an eight-game losing streak to the Yankees

that dated to last season.

Angels 11, Twins 5

At Anaheim, California, Chone Figgins and Maicer Izturis homered during a nine-run fourth inning for Los Angeles to extend its winning streak to a season-high eight games. Minnesota lost its fourth straight.

Matt Palmer (8-1) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings, striking out three and walking three. The Angels have averaged 7.33 runs in the 30-year-old rookie's 12 starts.

Tigers 4, White Sox 3, 10 innings

At Detroit, Curtis Granderson's RBI double sent the game into extra innings, and Carlos Guillen's RBI single finished off Detroit's win over Chicago.

Guillen then chopped a ball up the middle that barely eluded White Sox shortstop Alexi Ramirez, and Clete Thomas came from second base to easily beat DeWayne Wise's throw to the plate.

Chicago starter Gavin Floyd allowed two runs—one earned—in 6 2-3 innings, while Detroit's Edwin Jackson gave up three runs in seven innings.

Indians 10, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Asdrubal Cabrera homered, drove in two runs and scored three times to back a strong start by Jeremy Sowers for Cleveland. Sowers (3-7) held Seattle scoreless over seven in-

nings, allowing only four hits in his best outing of the season.

Erik Bedard (5-3) endured his shortest start of the season for the Mariners. He went three innings, allowing two runs on two hits and four walks.

Red Sox 7, Orioles 2

At Boston, David Ortiz jump-started Boston's sluggish offense with a three-run homer and Adam LaRoche added a two-run shot in his Red Sox debut.

Jacoby Ellsbury added two RBI doubles for the Red Sox, who won their second straight after a season-high five-game losing streak. Jon Lester (9-7) improved to 9-0 in 11 career starts against Baltimore.

Royals 6, Rangers 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings to help Kansas City end a 10-game losing streak.

Hochevar (6-3) had the second-most strikeouts in team history and was particularly effective against Texas' big three, striking out Josh Hamilton, Andrew Jones and Hank Blalock a combined nine times. Texas lost for the first time in six games.

Billy Butler hit a two-run homer off Derek Holland (3-6) to put the Royals up 4-3 in the fifth.

Dodgers 4, Marlins 3

At Los Angeles, Casey Blake hit a bases-

loaded single with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a gripping win over the Florida Marlins.

Los Angeles trailed until a pair of run-scoring singles in the sixth.

In the bottom of the ninth, with one out, a bunt single, then a further single put men on first and second. After a strikeout, a walk loaded the bases. Blake then mis-hit his swing but the ball looped over the infield for the winner.

Phillies 14, Cardinals 6

At Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins hit a go-ahead grand slam and had a career-high five RBIs as Philadelphia punished St. Louis in a clash of NL divisional leaders.

Rollins connected in the sixth to give Philadelphia a 7-4 lead. Shane Victorino, who went 4 for 4, followed with a homer.

Rockies 8, Giants 2

At Denver, Colorado moved into the provisional wild-card berth, a game ahead of San Francisco.

Troy Tulowitzki homered and drove in a career-high five runs for the Rockies.

Brewers 4, Braves 0

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo pitched 7 1-3 scoreless innings to guide Milwaukee over Atlanta.

Gallardo also got the RBI single

that broke open a scoreless game in the fifth.

Mets 10, Astros 3

At Houston, New York re-discovered its missing offensive mojo with a comfortable win over Houston.

Jeff Francoeur hit a three-run homer and David Wright added a solo shot for the Mets, who won their first game in four.

Cubs 5, Reds 3

At Chicago, Aramis Ramirez hit his second homer in as many days to help Chicago over struggling Cincinnati.

Ramirez gave the Cubs a 3-1 lead in the first with a two-run drive after compiling four hits the previous game.

Diamondbacks 7, Pirates 0

At Phoenix, Justin Upton homered and drove in three runs as Arizona cruised past Pittsburgh.

Upton's two-run homer into the left-field seats broke a scoreless tie in the fourth.

Nationals 13, Padres 1

At Washington, the hosts got their biggest win of the season, crushing San Diego.

Adam Dunn's grand slam capped a five-run second inning after a rain delay of more than three hours. Dunn finished with five RBIs.

Cotto crown at stake in tiff vs Pacquiao



MANILA, Philippines—The World Boxing Organization welterweight belt will be on the line when Manny Pacquiao tangles with titlist Miguel Angel Cotto on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

WBO president Francisco “Paco” Valcarcel made this as-

surance to Michael Marley of Examiner.com Friday afternoon to assuage fears of Pacquiao fans that Cotto’s crown won’t be staked because the fight, slated at the MGM Grand, is set at a catch weight of 145 pounds and not at the regular limit of 147 pounds.

Valcarcel said he appreciated Pacquiao’s quest for a

seventh weight division world title, adding that it would “be ridiculous not to dangle the WBO title” considering that a highly respected champion (Cotto) is fighting the No. 1 contender (Pacquiao).

Officially, Pacquiao has reigned as World Boxing Council super featherweight, flyweight and lightweight

champion and International Boxing Federation super bantamweight titlist.

Pacquiao, the pound-for-pound king, currently holds the International Boxing Organization light welterweight crown, snatching it from British icon Ricky Hatton, whom he demolished in two rounds on May 2.

In addition, Pacquiao, who’ll be fighting at over 140 lbs for only the second time in his sterling career, has been

recognized as the Ring Magazine’s featherweight, super featherweight and light welterweight champion.

In his initial foray as a welterweight, Pacquiao sent future Hall of Famer Oscar De La Hoya with an eight-round stoppage last December also at the MGM Grand.

This early, bettors have installed Pacquiao a -215 favorite and Cotto, who’s going below 147 pounds for the first

time in nearly three years, a +175 underdog.

This means that a \$215 bet on Pacquiao would just net \$100 while a \$100 wager on Cotto would generate \$175.

Both Pacquiao and Cotto, who hails from Puerto Rico, are being promoted by Top Rank’s Bob Arum, assuring the 77-year-old lawyer of a windfall in gate receipts and pay per view buys of the 12-round bout dubbed “Fire Power.” *(PDI)*

CNMI

From Page 28

Ghazaryan holds the best record on Heat 4 with his 1:09.48.

Ukraine’s Igor Borysik holds the world record in the 100m breaststroke after timing in at 58.67 seconds in Ukraine in June this year, while the U.S.’s Brendan Hansen is the World

Championships record-holder with his 59.37 seconds posted in 2005 in Canada.

Results in the morning session were unavailable at press time.

The CNMI swimmers, along

with coach Hiro Kimura of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez of Saipan Swim Club, left Saipan

early Wednesday and arrived in Rome on Thursday.

They took an off last Friday before practicing in an indoor pool made of solid marble and built by Musso-

lini last Saturday.

The four CNMI swimmers were on the same warm-up pool with U.S. swimmers Dara Torres, Aaron Piersal, and Ryan Locte.

X-TERMINATORS

From Page 28

tary School Ballfield.

The victory was X-Terminators third in four games, allowing the team to recover from their Round 4 loss to Kulan Zamu Gear on July 18. The win also put the X-Terminators in second place behind the undefeated Kulan Zamu Gear (5-0). Only the Top 4 teams after the round robin elimination in the eight-squad tournament will advance to the next round.

The winner of the Saipan qualifier will then face Guam’s champion for the Marianas Cup later this month.

After a slow start, which showed X-Terminators scoring

only one run in the first two innings on Joey Dela Cruz’s one-run double at the bottom of the first, Advance began hitting its target in the third inning to end the game in five innings.

Advance had back-to-back homers at the bottom of the third inning with second batter J.J. Laniyo, who pitched for X-Terminators in absence of Mel Sakisat, connecting on a two-run homer and bringing Roy Celis home. Ned Norita then came up with a solo homer, while Dela Cruz had another double, allowing Manny Sablan to reach home plate.

The X-Terminators scored their fifth run in the third inning and took a 6-0 lead after Pauline Tudela’s single on leftfield brought Dela Cruz home.

Advance failed to keep its momentum in the fourth, as its first three batters were thrown out with the last two flying out and leadoff batter Bruce Norita having beaten to first.

However, the X-Terminators redeemed themselves at the bottom of the fifth inning, drilling four runs. With two outs, Laniyo and Norita singled and later scored on Sablan’s over-the-fence home run, upping the lead to nine, 9-0, and bringing Advance to a run away from wrapping up the game on a 10-run mercy rule.

Dela Cruz was next at bat and made his third consecutive double. The Advance third baseman then delivered the game-ending run when he reached home plate on Eric

Palacios’s single to centerfield.

While Advance was connecting homers and a bunch of singles and doubles, Calikano was not that lucky, as the best it could do was reach second base in the first inning on X-Terminators’ error.

Four Calikano batters stepped upto the plate in the first inning, but in the last four innings, it had only three in each occasion and all were thrown out, as they either flied out or were beaten to first.

Pac-Chain 11, Che’lus 1

In the first game, Pac-Chain leaned on a six-run top of the first en route to an easy 11-1 win over Che’lus.

Che’lus scored only at the bottom of the fifth inning and

absorbed their third straight loss. Pac-Chain gained its third win in give games.

Kulan Zamu 3, Ur Balls 2

In the second match, Kulan Zamu remained perfect in five games after shutting out Ur Balls in the last three innings and eking out a 3-2 win.

The game was tied, 2-2, after four complete innings, when John Tomokane’s single drove Julian Camacho home at the bottom of the fifth to put Kulan Zamu in the lead.

Kulan Zamu preserved the win, as the best that Ur Balls could do in the last three innings was made it to first base after its runners were tagged out to second base twice.

from-behind 14-9 win.

Sufa had a 6-0 lead in the first inning before a seven-run top of the third moved SaiPal within one, 7-8. Sufa, which answered with two runs in the third, added one more run in the fourth to have more distance, 9-7. However, that was the last time Sufa scored, as after tying the game in the fifth inning, 9-all, SaiPal tallied five earned runs at the top of the seventh.

WOMEN’S Sakudi 9, Saulak 3

Saduki duplicated its first round win over Saulak in the women’s division after a 9-3 triumph last Saturday.

The win was third in a row for Sakudi, which gained its second win via a 33-0 demolition of Red Dirt on July 11.

Sakudi, which walloped Saulak in their first meeting last month, 20-2, had a six-run bottom of the seventh and was never threatened in the game.

NMBA

From Page 28

JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan. The Raffy’s Diner-backed Boholanos played back-to-back games that night and clobbered MIFICPA in the second game, 81-59.

Free throws from Adonis Macoto helped NMBA preserve the win and improve its record to 3-2.

The NMBA-Boholanos match was first played on June 18, but was suspended by rain with less than three minutes left in the fourth period and with the former ahead by a hair, 74-73.

NMBA led by as much as five in the resumption of the match before James Abuy and company recovered and sent the game in overtime.

Abuy then had a chance to claim the win in the first overtime when he trooped to the foul line for a pair of free throws in the last three sec-

onds of the game with Boholanos behind by only one, 91-92. However, Abuy split his charities, bringing the game into the second extension.

In the last nine seconds of the second overtime, it was Macoto’s turn to step up to the 15-foot line for two pressure-packed free throws and he made both, giving NMBA a three point lead, 109-106.

The score remained unchanged, after Boholanos struggled on its offensive set in the closing seconds of the game, as instead of going for a game-tying trey, Abuy drove to the basket and missed.

With their starters still recovering from the three-point loss to NMBA, Boholanos leaned on their second stringers in the second game against MIFICPA.

Mark Rabago fired 11 points off the bench, making all of them in the fourth period when Boholanos broke the game wide open. Jimmy Salazar, who was held to a free throw in the

first half, added eight in the final canto, while Elmer Pineda drilled eight of his 12 points in that period, too.

De La Torre sat out the fourth, but his 10 points in the third helped Boholanos bounce back after trailing by as much as 14 points in the first period.

While Boholanos were still catching their breath from the double-overtime game against NMBA, MIFICPA stepped on the pedal early and led, 17-3, midway in the first period.

Boholanos got their acts together in the remaining half of the opening canto with Danny Bicara leading a 15-3 windup to move within two.

MIFICPA kept the lead at halftime, 37-35, but after De la Torre’s undergoal stab tied the game at 37-all, with 8:38 left in the third period, Boholanos slowly took control of the match.

The third period ended with Boholanos grabbing the driver’s

seat, 54-47, and they increased the lead in the final canto, as Rabago started connecting from downtown, hitting two triples.

First Game

NMBA 109 – Rebuyon 29, Abedes 17, Opone 15, Macoto 14, Santos 7, Tobias 7, Olivos 6, Casabuena 5, Buenabjo 4, Fer 2, Galzote 2, Jacob 1.

Boholanos 106 – Pineda 20, Abuy 18, Mendoza 17, Jinang 15, Cosino 12, Trajano 8, Bicara 7, De La Torre 5, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 42-38, 63-57, 82-82, 92-92 (1OT), 109-106 (2OT).

Second Game

Boholanos 81 – De La Torre 15, Bicara 15, Pineda 12, Rabago 11, Abuy 10, Salazar 9, Trajano 5, Rodriguez 2, Garcia 2.

MIFICPA 59 – Gonzales 12, Hernandez 10, Leong 8, Ebuen 8, Ancheta 8, Dacumos 7, Sevilla 2, Musca 2, Limpin 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 37-35, 54-57, 81-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
MLB STANDINGS	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
New York	59 38 .608 —
Boston	57 39 .594 1 1/2
Tampa Bay	54 44 .551 5 1/2
Toronto	47 51 .480 12 1/2
Baltimore	41 55 .427 17 1/2
Central Division	
Detroit	52 44 .542 —
Chicago	50 48 .510 3
Minnesota	48 50 .490 5
Cleveland	40 58 .408 13
Kansas City	38 58 .396 14
West Division	
Los Angeles	58 38 .604 —
Texas	53 42 .558 4 1/2
Seattle	51 46 .526 7 1/2
Oakland	41 55 .427 17
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
East Division	
Philadelphia	55 40 .579 —
Atlanta	50 48 .510 6 1/2
Florida	50 48 .510 6 1/2
New York	45 51 .469 10 1/2
Washington	29 68 .299 27
Central Division	
St. Louis	53 47 .530 —
Chicago	50 45 .526 1/2
Houston	50 47 .515 1 1/2
Milwaukee	49 48 .505 2 1/2
Cincinnati	44 52 .458 7
Pittsburgh	43 54 .443 8 1/2
West Division	
Los Angeles	62 35 .639 —
Colorado	53 44 .546 9
San Francisco	52 45 .536 10
Arizona	42 56 .429 20 1/2
San Diego	38 60 .388 24 1/2
Yesterday's Games	
Chicago Cubs 5, Cincinnati 3	
Philadelphia 14, St. Louis 6	
Milwaukee 4, Atlanta 0	
N.Y. Mets 10, Houston 3	
Washington 13, San Diego 1	
Arizona 7, Pittsburgh 0	
Colorado 8, San Francisco 2	
L.A. Dodgers 4, Florida 3	
Oakland 6, N.Y. Yankees 4	
Tampa Bay 10, Toronto 9, 12 innings	
Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 10 innings	
Cleveland 10, Seattle 3	
L.A. Angels 11, Minnesota 5	
Boston 7, Baltimore 2	
Kansas City 6, Texas 3	
CANADIAN OPEN SCORES	
OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Canadian Open, a \$5.1 million US PGA Tour event at 7,253-yard, par-72 Glen Abbey Golf Club (a-amateur):	
SECOND ROUND	
Jason Dufner	68-63—131
Jerry Kelly	65-67—132
Scott Verplank	65-67—132
Nathan Green	68-65—133
Peter Tomasulo	65-68—133
Martin Laird	65-69—134
Pat Perez	67-67—134
Camilo Villegas	63-71—134
Bob Estes	67-67—134
Retief Goosen	65-69—134
Kevin Na	63-71—134
Tim Herron	67-68—135
Anthony Kim	69-66—135
By The Associated Press	
LOCAL SCORES	
UFO MASTERS STANDINGS	
Bayani	4 1
Boholanos	4 2
NMBA	3 2
Cabalen	2 2
MAFEA	2 4
MDX	2 4
MIFICPA	0 4

NMIFA

From Page 28

group, while the 10-and-under age group had 16 participants.

Each age group had separate sessions and Kambe and company introduced different topics per session.

In the 6-and-under age group, Kambe spent the Monday session of the clinic on introducing the sport and emphasizing that the ball is the

players’ friend. In the second day, kids were taught how to play the ball and on the third day, they learned about the goal. The penultimate day of the clinic focused on teaching kids the value of team work and after learning the basic of the sport, they were given an opportunity to play a couple of games in the last day.

For the 8 and 10-and-under participants, Monday’s session also evolved on introduction to football. In the sec-

ond day, they learned how to dribble and feint. Wednesday’s session was about kicking and heading, while Thursday’s featured trapping, receiving, and throwing in drills. In the last day of the clinic, participants were taught to score.

“From the looks on their faces, I can say that the kids truly enjoyed the clinic. They had fun and at the same time learned a few tips on how to play the game,” Kambe said.

“I hope they will continue to

enjoy the game and play in future tournaments,” the CNMI coach added.

NMIFA is holding various tournaments for kids every year. A few months ago, it hosted the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Festival, which drew a record of more than 500 players.

These players came from the five football clubs on the island, namely the Matansa Football Club, Independent FC, MP United, Tan Holdings FC, and Paire Football Club.

The Week in Sports

World Champs-bound athletes take spotlight

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Athletes representing the CNMI to the World Championships made headlines last week, giving the Commonwealth pride in off-island competitions.

The CNMI Swim Team left for Rome, Italy last Wednesday to compete in the 13th FINA World Championships.

Swimmers Rezne Wong, Shin Kimura, and Cooper Graf left Saipan with coach Hiro Kimura and Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez of Saipan Swim Club. The fourth member of the team, Kai Staal, left for Rome from San Francisco, also in the same day.

The CNMI swimmers were scheduled to compete in three individual events and one relay yesterday morning (evening on Saipan).

Also gaining slots to the World Championships are Yvonne Bennett and Clayton Kenty, who were named as CNMI representatives to the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany last week.

Bennett and Kenty will leave the CNMI on Aug. 1 and will go to Australia first to participate in the 2009 Oceania Regional Championships before heading to Germany.

Kenty is entered in the 400m run and 400m hurdles, while Bennett is joining the 100m sprint in the World Championships.

Three more Saipan-based athletes were also off-island last week to compete in separates tournaments.

Ji Hoon Heo made it into the finals of a tournament in New Caledonia after winning two games in Noumea.

Heo first played against Jeane-Jacques Harrison last Wednesday and won in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3. He advanced to the finals after thumping Aymeric Mara, 6-7, 6-0, 6-3.

In Japan, veteran runner Ronald Villafria battled cold and competed in the Mt. Fuji Marathon for the second straight time.

Bad weather in Japan was also a problem for triathlete Mieko Carey, but she still survived the rain-soaked 29th Kaike Triathlon Championships.

Carey completed the grueling 3-kilometer swim, 145-km bike, and 42.195-km run triathlon in nine hours, 47 minutes, 43 seconds and was the fourth finisher among female participants in the annual event. She clocked in at 44:52 in the swim leg (19th overall), 4:49:08 (93rd) in the bike portion, and 4:03:43 (94th) in the run part to finish 62nd overall among the more than 300 finishers.

In local tournaments, two teams were crowned champions in their respective sports.

Sta. Remedio received a perpetual grand prize trophy after ruling the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

A 319.5-lb. marlin allowed *Sta. Remedio*, which is skippered by captain Antonio O. Camacho and had Anthony Camacho, Melvin Aldan, and Damian Pua as anglers, to top the annual event and stun two-time champion *Cabo Express*.

Also pulling off an upset was Micronesian Brokers, Inc., which ruled the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

The fourth-seeded MBI swept the third-ranked Advance X-Terminators in their best-of-three title series after winning Games 1, 74-70, and 2, 89-70.

Still in basketball, the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League played make-up games last week with Northern Marianas Bartenders Association winning two games in a row.

NMBA-Ebisuya improved to a 3-2 record and was playing Cabalen last night. A win in its last game will put NMBA in second place behind the league-leading Bayani-Shirley's (4-1 mark).

Boholanos-Raffy's Diner played three games last week, and won two to end the regular season with a similar 4-2 slate. Boholanos defeated MAFEA and MIFICPA then lost to NMBA.

In bowling, Raphael Zapanta continued his streak, winning the Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament for the seventh straight time, after topping the July roll-offs.

Raphael's mother, Gigi, claimed the Queen of the Lanes tiara, while Simon Manacop prevailed in the King of the Lanes roll-offs.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yvonne Bennett, right, trains with sister Yvette, left, at the Oleai Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ronald Villafria poses in one of the stops in the 2009 Mt. Fuji Marathon during a practice trek to the top of the 12,388-foot mountain last Wednesday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey, right, poses with Pacific Development, Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura after completing the rain-soaked 29th Kaike Triathlon Championships in Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI flag and five others are on display at the competition pool in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Anglers of *Sta. Remedio* pose with their grand prize trophy and with organizers of the 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Clayton Kenty trains at the Oleai Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI's Don Sese pulls up for a shot against two Advance defenders during Game 2 of their title series in the Shirley's caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.



Contador set to win Tour—and Astana battle

Alberto Contador is basking in double satisfaction: the Tour de France victory is an easy ride away, and he's pulled it off in spite of his own team—and Lance Armstrong. **24**

Saipan Tribune Sports

World Champs-bound athletes take spotlight

Athletes representing the CNMI to the World Championships made headlines last week, giving the Commonwealth pride in off-island competitions. **27**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI swimmers plunge into action

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI swimmers started seeing action in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy yesterday.

Rezne Wong, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Cooper Graf were all scheduled to compete in the morning session (yesterday evening on Saipan) of the first day of the swimming competition in the biannual event.



Kimurawas first to plunge into the pool, as he was entered in the 400m freestyle swim.

The Grace Christian Academy student was on Heat 2 and had a qualifying time of four minutes, 44.84 seconds.

Kimura will be competing against eight other swimmers, including two fellow Pacific Island swimmers Paul Elaisa and Douglas Miller of Fiji. Macau's Man Pok Ngou holds the best qualifying time on Kimura's heat at 4:22.00.

Australia's Ian Thorpe is the record-holder (both World Championships and world record) in the 400m freestyle with his 3:40.08 and 3:40.17, respectively.

Next up for the CNMI Swimming Team were Cooper Graf and Kai Staal, who both swam in the 50m butterfly event.

Graf was on Heat 3, along with eight other swimmers. His qualifying time was 30.92 seconds. Only one swimmer on Graf's heat broke the 30-second barrier qualifying time in the 50m butterfly event with Fiji's Elaijie Erasito posting 29.53 seconds.

Staal belonged to Heat 4 with a



From left, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong pose for a group photo with coach Hiro Kimura, back row, while they watch fellow swimmers practice at the warm-up pool in Rome, Italy.

qualifying time of 28.73 seconds. The swimmer with the best qualifying time on Heat 4 was Mauritius' Jean Pascal Hughes-Gregoire (28.47 seconds).

The world record in the 50m butterfly stands at 33.43 seconds by Spain's

Rafael Perez Munoz. Russia's Roland Schoeman holds the World Championships record of 22.96 seconds made in Montreal, Canada in July, 2005.

Completing the CNMI's stint in the morning session on Day 1 was Wong,

who was on Heat 4 of the 100m breaststroke event.

Wong's qualifying time was 1:10.21, the sixth best among the nine swimmers on his heat. Armenia's Norayr

See CNMI on Page 26

X-Terminators shut out Calikano

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Advance X-Terminators boosted their chances for a semis seat in the 7th Annual

Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier after shutting out Calikano in Round 5, 10-0, last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance X-Terminators leftfielder Roy Celis throws to second base during their game against Calikano in Round 5 of the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

NMIFA completes kids clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association concluded its

five-day kids clinic last Friday with around 50 children learning the basics of sport at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The clinic, which started last Monday, drew participants in 10-and-under age groups and had CNMI National coach and NMIFA technical director

Sugao Kambe as instructor. Kambe was assisted by CNMI players Brenda Schultz, Patricia Coleman, and Michico Tenorio.

Kambe said the 8-and-under age group attracted the most participants with 18. Fifteen kids attended the five-day clinic for the 6-and-under age

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2009 NMIFA Kids Clinic had a scrimmage last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

NMBA on a roll, Boholanos split games

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REPORTER



Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya is on a roll in the masters division of the 7th

United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, while Boholanos-Raffy's Diner split its last two games.

NMBA notched its second win in a row after edging Boholanos in double overtime, 109-106, last Friday at the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Boholanos-Raffy's Diner's Jimmy Salazar goes for a power move against two MIFCPA defenders during their game in the masters division of the UFO caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.